

MAIL SUPPLEMENT.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

No. 2796.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1891.

SIX DOLLARS
PER QUARTER

MARRIAGE.

On the 12th instant, at H.B.M.'s Consulate-General, Shanghai, by P. J. Hughes, Esq., Consul-General, and afterwards at Trinity Cathedral, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A. EDWARD BOIS, of Shanghai, to BLANCHE MAUDIE, youngest daughter of Francis Julian Marshall, Surveyor, H.B.M.'s Office of Works for China and Japan.

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THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION SWINDLE.

This journal has enunciated its views in no uncertain language when discussing the disgraceful attempt of the War Office, backed up by the supineness of Lord Knutsford and the other crowd of incapables at the Colonial Office, to extort from this colony a sum of £20,000 per annum as an extra military contribution under promises and pretences that have been proved to be false and misleading. We also opposed in the strongest terms the huge imposition for so-called fortifications which was only agreed to after firm promises of wonderful breach-loading guns, first-class torpedo boats, and other death-dealing appliances which were supposed to be necessary for the defence of Hongkong—and we gave decided warning that this colony was only being fleeced for political purposes. Our predictions regarding both the famous guns and the extra regiment have been verified to the letter; our direct charge that an attempt was being made to obtain an increased military contribution under specious promises which would not be fulfilled, has proved only too true, notwithstanding the utterly feeble and purposeless extenuation of Governor des Vaux in the Legislative Council on the 5th inst. It will be remembered that, when the Government was forcing this most unpopular measure down the throats of the unofficial members of Council by the sheer weight of the official phalanx, we strongly urged the gentlemen who are presumed to be representatives of the community, to resign their positions *en masse*, as a protest against the wanton bad faith of the Government. And we again recommend the adoption of that most effective course as an answer to Lord Knutsford's latest demand. There have been some rumours of a public meeting to be convened by the unofficial members for the purpose of ascertaining what is really the opinion of the community on the question; but it is hardly likely that such a meeting will be held. Our unofficial legislators, with two or three noteworthy exceptions, have always rested under the suspicion of "trimming" when the worst came to the worst, and we fear it would be so in this case. The Governor, the other day, trusted that the unofficial members would not place him in the painful position of being obliged to do his duty in face of their views. What is his Excellency's duty? To protect the interests of Hongkong, or to coerce or cajole the unofficial members in assisting him to "squeeze" £20,000 out of the taxpayers on grounds which will not for a moment bear inspection? Who pays Governor des Vaux his annual salary of £32,000? Is it the Colonial Office, the War Office, or the down-trodden rate-payers of Hongkong? If we mistake not, his Excellency is paid for his services by this colony, and it therefore seems to us that his first duty is to his immediate employers; and that duty is to conserve and safeguard their interests. But he does not see it in that light; he is appointed by the Colonial Office and, therefore, he must do what that enlightened bureaucracy dictates—even carrying through what is a shameless extortion. We are sorry for Governor des Vaux, and sympathise with him in his unenviable position; but we would be much better if his Excellency opened up to the plain, unvarnished truth. Instead of making lengthy, inconsistent and painfully illogical speeches in support of what is inaccurately described by the ugly word "fraud." The resignation of the unofficial members of Council, the magpies of the Sanitary Board, the Justices of the Peace, and all other citizens who are in an honorary capacity associated with the Government, would quickly bring my Lord Knutsford and the vampires of the War Office to their proper senses.

The press of the Straits Settlements have borrowed "our ideas" and are advocating their adoption with spirit and energy. Our contemporary, the *Straits Independent*, after severely criticising Lord Knutsford's exorbitant demands, remarks—

"Our colleague of the *Straits Times*, who appears to be justly indignant at the action of the Home Government, and who has dwelt on several issues of his paper to expose the great injustice that has been perpetrated, very properly makes certain suggestions with a view to express the great indignation and 'unusually bitter dissatisfaction' felt by this and other Chinese colonies at the action of the Home authorities. We fully agree with the editor of the *Straits Times*, and would gladly go hand-in-hand with him, although we do not believe that any further efforts will have the least effect in moving the Home Government one jot or tittle from the iniquitous course they have determined upon. By all means let the unofficial members of the Legislative Council, and the elected and nominating members of the several Municipal Boards, add every possible justice of the peace, and a body of Notaries in the Legislative and the Municipal Boards are they, in my opinion, to do because they are powerful classes, and to whom any measure in opposition to the official members, however beneficial, may

be of little avail. The *Straits Times* has done well to call attention to the fact that the inhabitants of these settlements are unrepresented in the Legislature. What has been done out to us hitherto with such a great flourish of trumpets is but the shadow and not the substance of popular representation. If the gentlemen who now hold the several posts referred to will be consistent, straightforward and independent, they will let Lord Knutsford know that they decline further to defend themselves to the perpetration of what is but a "fraud, a delusion and a snare."

These are the views we have advocated for years, and we are glad to find that they have found so firm an echo in the Straits Settlements. At a meeting of the Singapore legislature held on the 5th inst., the "Military Contribution" question was made the subject of debate on a motion by the Colonial Secretary that the Council vote a sum of £58,211.66 for military contribution and allowances. Amidst loud applause from his unofficial colleagues Mr. SINKLAR said that "the garrison was not estimated by the wants of the people in Singapore, but was placed there for Imperial purposes"; "that self-preservation was the first law of Nature applied to Colonial as well as to Imperial matters;" and he wound up by insisting that the Colonial Office had acted the part of a Judas in sacrificing the interests of the Crown Colonies to the dictates of the Imperial Treasury and the War Office. Mr. FINLAYSON admitted that all their arguments would be of no avail, and so long as there was a little money in the Straits Treasury the Chancellor of the Exchequer would never rest satisfied until he got it in his clutches. Some statements in the Secretary of State's despatch were too "thin," and although he (Mr. FINLAYSON) was a British taxpayer, he protested against this military exactation merely to save him the microscopic fraction of a penny which would fall upon him and his fellow tax-payers. Mr. BURKINSHAW followed on the same side and said the time was not one for argument but for action, and described the situation as a "monstrous injustice." The debate had not finished when the last mail left Singapore.

We recommend Mr. BURKINSHAW's forcible remark to the attention of the unofficial members of the Hongkong Legislative Council—"the time is not one for argument, but for action." And let that action be peremptory and decided. If the Governor, in what he considers the exercise of his duty, should attempt to force this unpopular vote through the Council by the aid of his official subordinates, every member should leave the table and at once resign. An appeal to the Hongkong community by their representatives in the Legislative Council would be a startling novelty; but it would also have the effect of bringing the satraps of the Colonial Office to their senses in double-quick time.

MAGNIFICENT (?) HONGKONG.

The London and China Express of February 6th says that an extract from a Blue Book on Hongkong is going the rounds of the English press which points out that the prosperity and advancement of the colony are bound up with the progress made by the great country on whose confines Hongkong is situated. Here is the closing sentence of the extract—

To encourage China in the adoption of modern ideas, to assist her, in so far as possible, in opening up her vast territory, and to facilitate intercourse between her and other nations, should surely be the duty of a colony whose interests are interwoven with her interests, and whose prosperity will be retarded in proportion as hers is held back by a policy of too conservative a nature.

These words, says the L. & C. Express, are perfectly true, and we have no very strong reasons to suggest that they are not; but surely anybody and everybody who knows the least thing at all about Hongkong and China, their geographical positions and mutual commercial necessities, didn't require these stale truisms rammed down their throats through the medium of an official Blue Book? Our worthy London contemporary makes these comments—

"In justice to those who have had the making of Hongkong, politically and commercially, however, it should be pointed out that though a further relative increase of prosperity is in large part dependent on the progress that China herself makes, still what Hongkong has done has been mainly of her own bat. She had the material at hand to work on, and the opportunity has been taken, until she finds herself in the magnificent position she now occupies."

The latter sentence in this quotation is exceedingly funny, and again shows what a profound knowledge of this colony and its affairs is possessed by so-called experts and old China hands in London. Sooth to say, the material at the disposal of the men whose enterprise, perseverance and industry made Hongkong what she is to-day, was but scanty and of poor quality.

In plain truth the British pioneers of trade had to go through an experiment very much resembling the very difficult operation of "making bricks without straw." Hongkong's commercial importance, as a trading centre, whatever may be its present actual value either commercially or politically, is undoubtedly owing to the fact that Chinese traders in thousands, having confidence in the foreign invaders and recognising the advantages of living under the protection of who can, freely carry what serves their purpose to who any measure in opposition to the official members, however beneficial, may

until to-day almost the whole of the trade is practically in their hands. Foreign merchants still do a limited business both in imports and exports, but it is chiefly on commission or as agents or go-betweens for Chinese firms. Our banks and public companies are still under foreign control, and there are various shipping enterprises flourishing in our midst directed by foreigners; but even in all these, with but few exceptions, Chinese influence is conspicuously paramount. Hongkong is no doubt a wonderful place, a marvellous instance of successful British colonization, but in appraising the causes which have led to such gratifying results, the potent Chinese element has been generally overlooked. And among Far Eastern ports, this city of Victoria is by no means exceptional in that respect.

But what can the Editor of the L. & C. Express mean when he refers to the "magnificent position" Hongkong now occupies? Where does the "magnificent position" come in? The trade of the place could scarcely be worse than it is, and in no town in the world of the same size is there more wide-spread suffering and misery. Foreigners, unless exceptionally placed, are only able to earn a bare livelihood, and many indeed find it impossible to make ends meet. Where are the grand old historical "hongs" and shipping firms of less than twenty years ago? They have departed like the very much defunct China tea trade, and in all but a few striking cases left only agencies and commission shops behind. Trade in foreign hands in Hongkong is almost as dead as it is in Canton and Macao; the energetic, far-seeing and industrious Chinese have the game almost entirely in their own hands, and they know it well. Why we do not frankly recognise it too is one of those hereditary traits of English character which nobody can clearly explain. It is true we have a numerous and comfortably provided for official class; and if the "magnificent position" of the London paper refers to these ornaments to local society, we at once cry *peccava*; but as a mercantile and, to some extent, manufacturing centre, Hongkong at the present time is in dire distress, and has been laboring under great depression for the past eighteen months. The prosperity of a commercial port cannot be gauged by the fictitious dividends of speculative joint-stock concerns. Hongkong's "magnificent position" on paper, was acquired during that eventful season of summer madness when companies of every shape and hue were floated almost daily, and about every foreigner in the town thought himself hand-and-glove with fortune. The bubble burst, and so did Hongkong's ephemeral magnificence. If there is a more poverty-stricken, woe-begone, and generally wretched British city on the face of the earth than this vaunted Victoria, we should like to know where it is to be found. The only magnificence in the place must be sought for amongst opulent Chinese merchants—and the successful Bank directors and their jacks. It doesn't exist anywhere else.

THE CZAREWITCH.

His IMPERIAL HIGHNESS the CzaREWITCH landed at Singapore, to return the official call of Governor Sir CECIL SMITH, on the afternoon of the 3rd inst. Although the Russian Prince had specially requested that there should be as few people as possible at his reception on landing, a regular army of official bummars attended in stage dresses of various descriptions, decorated with all sorts of things, from the meaningless star of St. Michael and St. George to that honorable badge worn by the modest teetotaller. On getting ashore the CzaREWITCH at once proceeded to Government House, the most conspicuous figure in the official escort being JENNINGS, the Singapore secret police officer, who followed directly behind the Prince's carriage in a hired gharry. We cannot conceive why JENNINGS should have taken part in this mild pageant, in fact, it looks almost like an insult to Russia; but possibly it may have been intended as a compliment and as a specimen of that astute, if usually incomprehensible, diplomacy for which British Colonial viceroys are so famous.

When that spotless ornament to the British Peerage, the Duke of SUTHERLAND, was in Johore, he succeeded in converting the Sultan into a kind of Scotchman—to the extent of deeply admiring the ancient and soul-inspiring music of the bag-pipes. So enamoured did his Highness become of the eldritch skirl of the "pipes" that he got the Duke to promise to send him an accomplished performer from famed Dunrobin. His Grace was as good as his word, and in due time a young lad named BOLAND arrived at Johore, and in the garb of old Gaul rightly enlivened the Sultan's dinner proceedings according to ancient custom.

Before last St. Andrew's Eve the Sultan's pipe was chartered, for a special excursion to Selangor to perform at the St. Andrew's Ball, and he went there and was so well pleased with the place that he accepted a position under the Government in the Kuala Lumpur Hospital.

After a very short stay with Governor SMITH, less than a quarter of an hour, the hope of Russia returned direct to the pier, with the secret police officer in the hack carriage still in close attendance, and at once went on board the *Panias Atua*. Probably disgusted with the fawning sycophancy of the local representatives of "the rulers of the waves," he left for Batavia next morning, having, through the Russian consul, declined to receive any ceremonial visits from the Foreign consuls or from anybody else.

Hongkong, we are afraid, will be grievously disappointed. The rank and gentle and fashion and shoddy, and the other swells of more or less high degree who had made up their minds to hob-nob with a real Russian Heir-Apparent—not to mention such minor notabilities as Prince GEORGE of Greece, and Prince BARIOTINAY—and to give their tasty Court suits, Windsor uniforms, and Marlborough House toggey a public airing, are already at fever heat with indignation at being denied the opportunity of again gaily strutting in borrowed plumes. They can't understand why this distinguished Russian traveller should decline to be toadied to, and to make a waxwork exhibition of himself for the special gratification of a hybrid crowd of smirking nobodies, who preferentially carry what serves their purpose to what serves them.

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It seems that a lady, Miss SAVORY, who was a member in Dr. SINKLAR's house, had died suddenly—it was alleged from an overdose of chloral; and it was in connection with this lady's death that BOLAND got himself within the dangerous and uncertain meshes of the law. The young pipers, so it is stated, a day or two after the death of the governess, made a voluntary declaration before the Resident of Selangor, to the effect that, when outside

Dr. SINKLAR's house, one night, he heard a woman's voice, which he recognised to be that of Miss SAVORY, forbidding some person from entering her bedroom, and asking how that person dared to take such a liberty. BOLAND alleged that this voice, which replied to Miss SAVORY, was the voice of Dr. SINKLAR, the physician, of course, being that the Doctor had been guilty of serious impropriety. Dr. SINKLAR prosecuted this lad before the Selangor Court, on a charge of making a false accusation, and the case was heard before

Mr. WELLAND, chief magistrate, and a jury. BOLAND, in his defence, made the same statement in court that he had previously made to the Resident; the statement was not substantiated by evidence—nor could it well be, seeing that Miss SAVORY was dead; and of course Dr. SINKLAR denied the whole affair point blank. The Resident was examined, as was Mrs. SINKLAR, the wife of the Doctor, but we cannot say what their evidence was worth; at all events the jury eventually found BOLAND guilty, but recommended him to mercy, and the Magistrate—who is evidently a judge of the Sir PETER EDLIN stamp—imposed a sentence of three years' rigorous imprisonment.

We are not in possession of the detailed

evidence adduced at the trial, and it would be both unfair and unwise to attempt to discuss the probabilities on the mere outline of alleged facts. If BOLAND, who is described as a mere lad, did concoct and deliberately bring this charge against Dr. SINKLAR out of motives of spite or for any unlawful purpose, his offence was a very serious one; but the opinion of the jury notwithstanding, such a MACHIAVELLIAN act on the part of a boy is hard to believe without some strong evidence in support. And we are unable to understand the special charge on which the lad could have been arraigned, entailing, even after a recommendation to mercy, such a sentence as three years' imprisonment with hard labour.

Perhaps the next mail from Singapore may bring us further particulars; but in any case and whatever the circumstances, it seems clear enough that the prosecution was an ill-judged one and the brutality of the sentence a disgrace to the administration of justice in the Straits Settlements.

TELEGRAMS.

DEATH OF THE UNITED STATES MINISTER TO JAPAN.

TOKYO, 10th March, 1891.
Mr. John F. Swift, United States Minister to Japan, died here to-day.

(Special to Hongkong Telegraph).

CONSUL ALABASTER PROMOTED.

CANTON, March 13th.
Mr. Chaloner Alabaster, British consul at this port, has been promoted to the rank of consul-general.

This promotion will probably postpone Mr. Alabaster's departure from Canton, greatly to the satisfaction of the foreign community.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

LI, ex-Minister for China to Japan, left Shanghai for Peking, via Tientsin, on the morning of the 13th inst.

The returns of the number of visitors to the City Hall Museum for the week ending March 15th, are: Europeans 158, and Chinese 1,377 total 1,535.

The Nagasaki *Rising Sun* states that the German steamer *Mero* has changed her flag and will henceforth be known as the *Nippon-maru*.

It is stated that Mr. H. KOPCS, now Commissioner of Customs at Chinkiang, is to succeed Mr. E. McKEAN as Statistical Secretary, in charge of the department in the Peking Road, Shanghai.

The directors of the Sheridan Mining Company have notified the shareholders that a dividend of two-and-a-half per cent., being the first dividend of 1891, has been declared, payable on the 17th inst.

The rumour prevalent as to the probable withdrawal of the China Merchants' Co.'s steamer *Kiang-kang* from the Canton river, are authoritatively stated by our Shanghai morning contemporary to be mere canards.

DR. KOCH'S lymph has been introduced into Shanghai. The first inoculations took place there the other day. What's the matter with the Hongkong medics? They are not usually so slow in scientific investigation.

Brother E. BOIS, W. M. of the Northern Lodge of Chias, was presented on Wednesday evening the 11th inst., at the regular meeting of the Lodge, Shanghai, with a very handsome silver tea-service as a wedding present.

We learn that as the French transport *Comorin*, which arrived in Singapore on the 6th inst., bound for Tongkin, was approaching the Borneo Wharf several men sprang over the side. Three succeeded in making good their escape.

The steamer *Suzaku*, despatched from Shanghai by Wohls by Messrs. Melchers & Co. on the 1st inst., ran ashore at Half-way Point the same afternoon. She got off next day, without having sustained any apparent damage, and proceeded on her voyage.

The members of the Rifle Association had another field day on Saturday, the Short Range Challenge Cup, and Spoons being the events competed for. Lieut. Martin, R.N., won the Cup, and the 500 yards Spoon, for the latter making the excellent aggregate of 6s. The 600 yards Spoon was won by Mr. Woodin.

The *Shanghai Mercury* gives the following full and correct account of the discovery of the new seam at Takasima:—Having received indirect news regarding the discovery of a new coal seam, we dispatched a special reporter to Takasima to ascertain full particulars, and we give hereunder a full and correct account. In Takasima at present two seams are being worked; and it is estimated their production will be exhausted in two or three years, and failing to discover, after many attempts, any other seams, it was decided when the above seams became exhausted to give up working Takasima. There is an old pit situated in the south-east of the island about 100 kins distant from Hyakumatsu, and was worked by the natives 70 years ago, but after 600 shaku were dug, which took them some 30 years, the work was abandoned. To this pit the Mitai Coal Company have directed their attention, thinking that with perfect machinery the old seam is readily worked by the natives, might give Takasima a new lease of life. The trial working was commenced in May 1890, and after digging through the fault they discovered a seam about eight shaku high, but when they had worked in three directions, some 400 shaku, a 40' layer of stone stopped further progress. Apparently there seemed to be then no future prospect in these seams. But engineer Matsubayashi, the British employé Brown, and others resolved to cut through the stone layer if possible, with the result that they discovered two seams of 6 shaku and 31 shaku thick. One hundred and twenty shaku have been dug at present, and as it is the same good quality coal they are believed to be the old 18' feet seams. When the survey is completed, the report is a satisfactory one. The coal will be worked on a great scale. The *Shanghai Mercury* English index.

The Attorney-General moved on the 17th inst. that Mr. Harry Rutherford Parkes, B.A., son of the late Sir Harry Parkes, be admitted a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Hongkong. The Chief Justice said: "I have looked through these papers and have found them in order and I have, therefore, much pleasure in admitting Mr. Parkes to practice in this Court. As you say, Mr. Attorney, Mr. Parkes bears an honourable name; it is a name universally respected in China and Japan. Mr. Parkes in his practice may confidently look forward to every consideration from all concerned in the law, and I make the order that Mr. Parkes be admitted to the roll of Solicitors of this Court." Mr. Parkes joins the office of Messrs. Caldwell and Wilkinson.

THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH, THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1891.

The U. S. S. *Swatara*, once well known on the China station, has been ordered out of commission.

We learn that Capt. C. J. Ollielet has been appointed to the command of Messrs. Apac's Hongkong-Calcutta liner *Japam*, *sits* Capt. T. S. Gardner, who died recently in Calcutta.

ABOUT 4 o'clock on the 26th February a fire occurred at Hankow and burned till 8 o'clock before the city fire brigade could effectively subdue it. Over two hundred houses were destroyed.

HOLDERS of "Charbonnage" shares in this colony will be glad to hear that the coal-fields of Tonkin are turning out so well that it is thought that M. Ferry may be restored to popular favor upon that issue alone."

CAPT. Joseph Hogg who was fined \$100 at the Police Court on the 7th inst. for over-loading the British steamer *Nansing* has, we hear, withdrawn the notice of appeal which he gave at the time the Mexicans were passed over.

Mrs. Hillier, H.M.'s Consul-General in Korea, was amongst the homeward bound passengers on board the German mail steamer which arrived here on the 13th inst. from the North. Mr. James Scott is now British *Chargé d'Affaires* in the peninsular Kingdom.

THIR Chungking Customs was formally opened on the 1st instant by the Commissioner of Customs, the British Consul, and the Taots. The Customs offices are at present in the house of the Chinese Sugar Guild, and they will remain in that building until the Custom House is built.

The report of an epidemic of small-pox at Macao is, as far as we can gather at present, based only upon the fact that a few children have died of that disease, while some scores of people of the lower classes have succumbed to influenza, which threatens to assume a serious aspect in the Holy City.

A SEAMAN of the Norwegian steamer *Norden*, now lying at East Point, was drowned when going off to his ship last night (March 10th). The Agents, the Mitsui Bushi Kaisha, informed us to-day that the man, as far as is known at present, was not murdered, but a magisterial inquiry into the circumstances connected with his death will be held to-morrow.

OUR old chum, Citizen George Francis Train, informs us that he is writing a book, detailing all the marvels he saw—and some he didn't see—but jotted down all the same—during that wonderful globe-trotting scurry of his from the Pacific Coast to nowhere in particular and back again. The volume will be published shortly, and the Citizen promises to send us a copy.

THE following gentlemen form the Shanghai Municipal Council for the ensuing year:—Chairman—Mr. John Macgregor. Vice-Chairman—Mr. J. G. Purdon. Finance Committee—Messrs. W. D. Little, J. Graham, and D. M. Moses. Works Committee—Messrs. John Macgregor, H. J. Joseph, and E. A. Probst. Watch and Defence Committee—Messrs. J. G. Purdon, D. C. Jansen, and W. McDonald.

THEY appear to have the same childish scare of rabies in dogs in the Straits Settlements that has made the Australasian Colonies the ridicule of the world for years past. The magistrate of Matang, Perak, has lately ordered the confinement of all dogs in the district for a period of three months, and any person refusing to hand over his bow-wow is threatened with a fine of \$100 or six months' imprisonment. In other districts all dogs are ordered to be summarily destroyed. What next?

THE tea and silk merchants in Kiukiang, according to a Chinese contemporary, seem to be much discouraged. Formerly, at the beginning of Chinese spring, men and money were sent to the tea and silk producing districts, whereas this year no one is on the move, and every one appears to wait for his neighbour to take the lead. This is a bad outlook for the special prodigiosities that have for generations made China prominent in commercial circles throughout the world.

An inquest was held this afternoon (14th Inst.) in Victoria Gaol by Mr. A. G. Wise, Acting Coroner, upon the body of Ying Yip, a prisoner, who was sentenced to a week's imprisonment on the 9th Inst. for larceny. The jury were:—Messrs. R. P. Dipple, H. Hyndman, and B. W. Wolff. Dr. Marques said the deceased was admitted to hospital on the 11th suffering from diarrhoea and died suddenly yesterday afternoon. Dr. Cowie, who made a post-mortem examination on the body of the deceased, said the intestines were in an altered condition from the effects of which he had died. A verdict of death from natural causes was returned.

THE *Shahsia* says "it is rumoured in Peking that, since the death of the Seventh Prince, the arduous duties of State have devolved upon the able and talented ministers of the Throne, but there is wanting a virtuous Prince at their head. There is a report that Prince Kung was invited to take the management of State affairs and he declined on the ground of age. Being over sixty years old, his energy is not what it was years ago, and he could not conscientiously undertake such a burden. Moreover he has not, as yet, recovered from the effects of asthma from which he has been suffering." Considering that the late Prince Ch'ün had practically done nothing for months prior to his death, we are strongly of opinion that the *Shahsia*'s rumours are of the mare's nest order. The Dowager-Empress is still the Autocrat of All China.

A private meeting of shareholders in the Punjon Company was held on the 13th last to discuss certain matters which the Directors considered it advisable to lay before those interested. We are not acquainted with the details of the Directors' information, nor have we any definite knowledge of what transpired; the meeting was announced as a private one—for reasons that may or may not be justifiable—which was sufficient for the representatives of the public press. If the Directors had wished the proceedings of the meeting published they would undoubtedly have invited the reporters of the three local papers to attend. And yet, to our astonishment, we find both in the *China Mail* and *Daily Press* what is said to be a summary of the proceedings at this private meeting. Anything more disreputable we have seldom seen in Hongkong journalism. That the evening rag would descend to the meanness of gutter dodges for a sensational paragraph, we know from a pretty long experience; but we did give dear old *Granny* the credit of knowing something about journalistic etiquette, and of being, albeit as dull as ditch water, fairly respectable. As these emasculated reports are calculated to convey a very erroneous impression amongst shareholders who were not present at the meeting, in the Far East and elsewhere, we would suggest to the Directors the advisability of publishing before the next mail leaves for home, a full official statement of the entire proceedings. Such a statement would at least prevent any misconception as to the Punjon Company's position or prospects, and might prevent a panic on the London Stock Exchange. As for our editorial colleagues of *Granny*, and the *Mail*, they will get over their *sauvage* by the usual *spouting* and *bootlocking*.

NAVIGATORS who have been all over the globe say that the China Sea and the Bay of Fundy are the two roughest seas in the world.

A NEWCHIANG correspondent, writing on the 14th inst., says that the ice on the river is a foot thicker than last year; it varies from 20 to 29 inches in depth, taken in several soundings between the Chinese Government wharf and the Creek which now bounds the British Settlement.

We hear that the epidemic at Canton is increasing in virulence and that it prevails in every street of the city. It is, in fact, a plague caused by the people having used putrid well-water for several weeks past; the water supply of the city having run very short owing to the long-continued drought. The authorities, it is said, have decided to give effect to the projected water-works scheme forthwith, in the hope of avoiding like disasters in the future.

SOME men are actors born, and others are only masqueraders, and to those coming under the latter category we must add the name of Chan Choi, who was detected whilst trying to assume the role of an Excise officer, in Jervois Street, last night. (March 12th). He succeeded in wheeling a box, and bullion to the amount of thirty cents from a loon whom he fancied was not so sharp as himself, but his fancy was at fault for once, and Chan was promptly laid by the heels, and when interrogated by Mr. Wise this morning had the good sense to plead guilty and was sent into retirement for the term of three months.

The *Nagasaki Express* thus:—"The City of Peking, on her last trip from Hongkong to Yokohama, had on board two magnificent horses as a present from Queen Victoria to the Emperor of Japan. One was an Australian animal and the other English." Now we happen to have seen these "magnificent" horses, and have a pretty shrewd notion as to their actual value, and it is no exaggeration to say that we have seen far better horses shot for their hides in Australia. A gift from the Queen of Great Britain to the Emperor of Japan! Ye gods—but than Victoria, by the grace etc., has always been noted for her lavishness in the "cumshaw" line, so "kommen" in this case is perhaps, superfluous.

OUR excellent friend the Rev. Sam. Jones got into extremely hot water the other day at Palestine, Texas. In the course of a lecture the belligerent evangelist thought fit to animadvert in pretty severe terms on the official and private character of Mr. Ward, the mayor of the town. Ward met Samuel at the railway station next morning and attacked him vigorously with a cane. And then there were riots. The Rev. Sam. grappled with the mayor, took the cane from him and waded him unmercifully. When separated by the onlookers, both combatants were bleeding profusely. The evangelist got on board the train and cleared out, whilst the luckless mayor was placed under arrest for aggravated assault and carrying a pistol.

THE annual ball of the Mih-bo-loongs, firemen and soldiers, was held in Shanghai on Friday the 6th inst., and proved most successful in every respect. There were three hundred and fifty guests present, of whom one third were ladies, and dancing was kept up with great spirit until an early hour on Saturday morning. Commenting on the ball, our Shanghai morning contemporary remarks:—"The occasion was a notable one, as 1891 marks twenty-five years since the Mih-bo-loong Hook and Ladder Company came into being. The original roll of the company was hung up as usual in the ball room; and it was interesting to see that seven of the signers of that roll in June, 1866, were in the room on Friday, among them the bearers of the first three names on it. Those seven do not comprise all the original Mih-bo-loongs who are still in Shanghai; and who would still, if required, be as ready as of old, to carry out the company's motto: "Say the word, and down comes the friends" should meet with such a pistol.

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THE community of Hongkong would seem to be in high favor with the gods at present, if we may count the coming of the many theatrical companies now threatening us with invasion, as a blessing—and no doubt they are, for to face the weary monotony of a Hongkong summer without the prospect of any amusement whatever, would be enough to drive a man to drink. Miln and his Shakespearean combination will be along in a week's time, and as they are reported to have unlimited talent and a lengthy repertoire, no doubt they will be warmly welcomed here, but what will make the soul of local lordly mastermind thrill and the women turn to a light pea-green color, is to learn that the lovely Brown-Potter is coming to Hongkong and will bring all her charms and attractions and "French-made dresses" along with her. incidentally it may be mentioned that Mt. Kyrie Bellwether is her "leading man" and that they have a very decent support behind them. Their repertoire is varied, and contains *La Tosca*, *Camille*, *Frois Fros*, *David Garrick*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and many other high class dramas. The show is being piloted by Mr. G. Crofton, and will be doubtless a success.

Some of the critiques that we have read, lead one to suppose that to see Mrs. B.-P. (and you see a lot of her too) is alone worth a trip to the moon.

A CORRESPONDENT whose *gymkh* is at present pitched on one of the barren slopes of the Kowloon peninsula, reports a most extraordinary incident which he alleges occurred there on the 12th inst. It is a long story but the gist of it lies in the following condensed sentences, but whether it was a circus that appeared unannounced in Kowloon, or that the noddies concerned only desired to make guays of themselves for the delectation of the onlookers is not explained. Here, however is the communication:—"Whips" of fun here yesterday. When taking quiet stroll was suddenly confronted by what at first sight appeared to be a party of disguised Red-Indians on the war-path. Soon ascertained, however, that as not one of the party could "sit tight" for two consecutive moments, that first surmise was erroneous. Closer inspection proved that the party was composed of all sorts and conditions of the genus *Fas quo*, and that their mounts were chosen from the buses which daily ply up and down the streets of Hongkong, and that the object of their visit to these usually undisturbed regions was to engage in a burlesque paper hunt. Lots of folly before the flag fell, but the fun only commenced when the first-ditch had to be negotiated. Then long-legged men took every advantage of the gifts of nature and curtailed their understandings around their diminutive mounts and with arms tightly wound round their ponies' necks managed to get over, and the shorter,—those who did not fall off, voluntarily jumped off, and walked across, and so on to the end, which is only a few out of the twenty-one starters ever saw. Many fell by the way through accident, and many, more intentionally, but when they were ultimately gathered in, it was found that no serious damage had been done. The man who came in first was, of course, as is customary in all dog-kennel races, disqualified, and the prize, a sucking pig (not from Mitchell-Innes' ranch), though was given to another. A doctor was in attendance, and the damaged were shipped across to Hongkong along with the bus horses, when it became sufficiently dark to enable the party to dodge the police.

IT has been the talk in China Town for some days past that the rate-payers friend, the genial Opium Farmer, lost upwards of \$30,000 last year, and that the causes thereof were legion: notably, the unsuitability of the Opium Ordinance to the altered conditions of the trade; the fact of the fines imposed on sly dealers and consumers having been so lowered as to render the local Cantonese merchants' limits have been exceeded. Moreover, owing to the great demand for suitable steamers for the northern trade the rates of freight have gone up considerably during the past week, and this fact partly accounts for the impasse of Yangtze grain failing off at Canton, with a corresponding fillip to the values of what has been aptly termed "Chinese bread-stuff." During the past month upwards of 200,000 piculs of rice have been imported at Canton, chiefly on Government account, and some 250,000 piculs at Foochow. Altogether the Chinese rice merchants of Wuhi, Chinkiang, Canton, Hongkong and Foochow are doing well—better than for many years past—and their prospects of making a "pile" before the close of the year are, in sporting parlance, about ro to 1 in their favour. "Tis an ill wind that blows nobody good," is an old maxim verified in this case; the lower and middle classes are suffering from want of the bare necessities of life and the grain dealers are filling their coffers by means of the great advance in the price of a commodity which by the aid of their guild system, they are able to force up to well-nigh famine prices—and will probably do so before very long. Supplies of rice from Bangkok have fallen off very much since the Chinese New Year, and the regular fluxes are going backwards and forwards with part cargoes—a "flub-with-the-deck" cargo being a rare exception just now. However, things don't look bad in the trade through the recent great fire at Bangkok, which resulted in heavy losses to the Chinese, cannot be said to have been without appreciable effect on the trade of that port. Hongkong-Bangkok freight is now ranging from \$15 to \$20 per picul—and was weak of late.

MR. Hugh Clifford, acting British Resident at Peking, has intimated to a Singapore advocate, that counsel are not permitted to practice the courts of that State.

THE *Nagasaki Rising Sun* of the 4th inst. says that Captain Hook of the Russian schooner *Nadezhda*, which has been acting as tender to the Russian whaling steamer *Gennady Nevilsky*, has little hope of the latter vessel's safety. The *Gennady* left Tengtung-dago, in northern Korea, for a port 50 miles east of Vladivostok on the 10th of January with only two days' coal on board, and has not since been heard of, though Captain Hook sailed all round the Korean coast, looking for her. She had a ship's company of 14, all Russians.

THE *Strait Times* of the 4th inst. has the following re Raubs:—"A call of two cents per share, payable on the 21st of the present month, is made to-day by the Directors of the Raub Australian Syndicate. The call is made on the advice of Mr. Hume Black, cabled to Brisbane, and the money (say £5,500) is intended solely for the purchase of new machinery. We understand that Mr. Home Black believes that the output of gold is likely now to be in excess of the working expenses, and that in anticipation of that the call is smaller than might be the case otherwise, it is expected that the output of the mine will probably contribute to the cost of the machinery needed."

THE case against Captain Crosby, of the American ship *Imperial*, was decided on the 12th inst. The Captain was charged:—"That he did, on the 17th day of February, on board the American ship *Imperial*, then lying in Hongkong harbour, unlawfully allow James Smith to land in this colony, who being other than Chinese and at the time of his landing was obviously destitute of means of subsistence." Mr. A. Moir, superintendent of the Sailors' Home, said the discharged sailor Smith had not applied to him for admission. Mr. Bowles, who appeared for the Captain, submitted that the Ordinance did not apply to discharged sailors. Mr. Wise, however, ordered that the defendant was liable to the Government of this colony for all costs and charges incurred by the colony in consequence of Smith becoming a vagrant. This, no doubt, is very consoling to Smith, who is at present in the House of Detention consequent upon conviction for vagrancy.

THE correspondent of the *Shanghai Mercury* writes from Kinshwa on February 12th:—"We have been invited by about two thousand refugees from the Poyang Lake region in Kiangsi. The cry is 'still they come.' Floods and famine are said to be the cause of emigration. Local officials are taxing the people for the relief of these unwelcome guests.—Szechuan is not the only province in China that produces insect-wax. New South Wales is gradually acquiring a formidable fleet. Their latest purchase is that cranky old dredger H.M.S. *Swinger*, which has been taken over for the use of the Sydney naval forces. We hope the use (?) of that dangerous vessel will be exclusively confined to the shores of the beautiful harbour." If the old *Swinger*—she was old when on the China station a generation ago—gets outside the Heads in a heavy sea, there will be weeping, and wailing and smashing of teeth. If the Consul for New South Wales will come along to this office we can fix him up a seat at small cost that will keep both Russia and Germany at defiance. The *Chob-chung* and *Hul-chong*, once the pride and ornament of the Chinese Navy and the Terror of the Canton River, are still jauntily riding at anchor in Ma-ki-Tai Bay, with the well-known banner of the *Hongkong Telegraph* floating proudly in the breeze—and they are open to any reasonable offer. This is an opportunity our Australian friends should not lose sight of.

AN extraordinary case is recorded in one of the Japanese papers which, if accurate, proves how truly "the mills of the gods, etc." and also how unjustly they sometimes grind. Mr. Kurata Tsujiura, Judge of the Fukyei Court, Goto, was arrested and brought to Nagasaki a few days ago, under very peculiar circumstances, which are, briefly, as follows:—Isao Watabe, eldest son of Shimbara Shizoku, was a clerk in the Mitsui Bussan Kaihatsu at Nagasaki some ten or twelve years ago, when he embezzled about \$400 from his employers, for which he was tried, convicted, and sentenced to penal servitude for life. Being sent to work in the Mikio coal mines, as a convict, he shortly afterwards, in 1881, made his escape to Oita, where he assumed the name of Teijimura and commenced to study law. In 1883 he was appointed Secretary of the Oita Court, and subsequently, passing the required examination, he was appointed Judge of the Fukyei Court in 1887; a position he continued to hold until he was arrested.

NEWS of the death at Calcutta of Captain T. S. Gardner, of Messrs. Apac's well-known Indo-China liner *Japam*, on the 12th ultimo, was regret to learn, brought here by the *Aravon Acces* on the evening of the 11th inst. Captain Gardner, who had been upwards of 24 years in the Calcutta-China trade, had lost his life in a collision with the steamer *Tokio Maru*, and of which the *Koh Herald* gives the following particulars:—Laterly, the ship lay, after stranding, at an angle with the shore of about 40 or 50 degrees, her forward part being fast on sand and rock and her stern comparatively deep water. It was felt that it was necessary to sweep her head round so as to bring her whole length parallel with the shore. To do this an enormous force or tension was required. To obtain this tension steel hawsers were requisitioned from the ships of the Fleet, and after being made fast to large anchors which were sunk some distance out in the sea-bed, they were connected by means of purchase tackles with the huge bits or bollards that had been let down through the decks of the vessel. Then as the ship rose and fell with the even motion of the waves around the greater part of her length, these steel hawsers, dragging her bow, with every repetition of the operation at each successive tide, slowly but surely to the vessel's native element. At first the strain was so great that the anchors would not hold; but ballast in large quantities being dumped down upon them, soon the anxious workers saw that success was to be the reward of their patient and skillful efforts. The extent of the damage sustained by the vessel is not yet known, but from the fact that the angles and plates of the water-ballast tanks are injured, it may be inferred that several frames, and much of the bottom plating will need renewal.

THE price of rice in Hongkong and the neighbouring Chinese provinces, Kwangtung and Fukien, is steadily advancing:—"Firsts" are now fetching \$2.35 to \$3.38 per picul, while "seconds" and "commons" are standing at \$2.57 and \$2.63 per picul, respectively. Many merchants at Canton are parting with the "staple of life" very charily, for they are confident that owing to the long continued drought the commodity in which they do a good thing will run up fully 20 to 30 per cent in the Chinese fourth and fifth months of the current year. There is also another and very potent reason for the maintenance of high prices for rice, namely, the opening of the Peiho River and the consequent rush of tribute (grain) laden steamers to the northern capital. Irrespective of the tribute rice which is going North in large quantities, merchants in Tientsin have sold down very large orders for grain (chiefly for "common") to the Yangtze grain ports—Wuhu and Chinkiang—thus causing the rates to suffice to such an extent that the local Cantonese merchants' limits have been exceeded. Moreover, owing to the great demand for suitable steamers for the northern trade the rates of freight have gone up considerably during the past week, and this fact partly accounts for the impasse of Yangtze grain failing off at Canton, with a corresponding fillip to the values of what has been aptly termed "Chinese bread-stuff." During the past month upwards of 200,000 piculs of rice have been imported at Canton, chiefly on Government account, and some 250,000 piculs at Foochow. Altogether the Chinese rice merchants of Wuhu, Chinkiang, Canton, Hongkong and Foochow are doing well—better than for many years past—and their prospects of making a "pile" before the close of the year are, in sporting parlance, about ro to 1 in their favour. "Tis an ill wind that blows nobody good," is an old maxim verified in this case; the lower and middle classes are suffering from want of the bare necessities of life and the grain dealers are filling their coffers by means of the great advance in the price of a commodity which by the aid of their guild system, they are able to force up to well-nigh famine prices—and will probably do so before very long. Supplies of rice from Bangkok have fallen off very much since the Chinese New Year, and the regular fluxes are going backwards and forwards with part cargoes—a "flub-with-the-deck" cargo being a rare exception just now. However, things don't look bad in the trade through the recent great fire at Bangkok, which resulted in heavy losses to the Chinese, cannot be said to have been without appreciable effect on the trade of that port. Hongkong-Bangkok freight is now ranging from \$15 to \$20 per picul—and was weak of late.

Under these circumstances, as Her Majesty's Legation is practically inaccessible in case of emergency, on account of its distance from Shanghai, the Consul General is our only resource, and therefore has by negotiation obtained for British subjects protection and recognition of their claims, which must practically have been abandoned but for the existence of this mode of procedure.

The influence exercisable by the Consul General depends in a great measure upon his occupying a high and independent position, coupled with long experience in dealing with Chinese officials.

In case the Offices of Chief Justice and Consul General are closed down, and of an appointment being conferred on any other than a member of Her Majesty's Consular service, it is obvious that the Consul General will not have the knowledge of Chinese law and custom which is essential for the discharge of his functions. Therefore, the Consul General will be a subordinate Officer, subject to the Consul

THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH, THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1891.

THE CHINESE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION).

A general meeting of shareholders in the Chinese Insurance Company, Limited, in liquidation, was held at the Head Office of the Company (Messrs. Melchers & Co's) yesterday afternoon (12th inst.), when the liquidators laid before the shareholders the account showing their acts and dealings, and the manner in which the winding up had hitherto been conducted. There were present Messrs. F. Dodgell (Chairman), S. C. Michaelson, E. Georg, J. Maclehone, T. I. Rose, E. E. Jory, G. Gosmann, G. Von Wille, several Chinese shareholders and H. Harms (Secretary).

The Chairman said.—The report and accounts having been in your hands for some little time I shall with your permission take them as read. In coming before you with their report of the progress of the winding up during the past year, the liquidators exceedingly regret that the results continue so unsatisfactory, but they would be doing less than their duty if they endeavoured to put matters before you in any more favourable light than the facts warrant. As the accounts show, and the report points out, the actual losses paid out during last year are comparatively small, some \$2,100 only, being the balance between \$30,000 losses paid and recoveries \$37,000, which of course represents a great deal of labour on the part of the liquidators in London. However, the drat of liquidation expenses must be taken into account. It is true that in nearly every instance we are reimbursed, but as you are all aware underwriting of late has resulted in heavy losses, culminating in many cases in failure to meet engagements, and we regret to say that we have been unfortunate in this respect as regards some of our reinsurance, to which we have before alluded. We have, therefore, but little hope of being able to complete the liquidation without almost entirely exhausting the called up capital, of which about \$40,000 only remained at the close of last year, and in this connection the liquidators may congratulate themselves and the shareholders, if indeed congratulation can be allowed in such a dreary matter, that they were not to be tempted last year by sanguine estimates to make any repayment of capital, which would, as events are proving, almost certainly have had to be recalled. The report makes mention of a scheme for shortening the process of winding up, which the liquidators are considering, and we propose to take advantage of your presence here to-day to ask you to remain behind at the close of the meeting for private discussion, when we will lay before you details of the matter. You will probably agree with us, it would be unwise to publicly discuss these, as such a course might prejudice the negotiations. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts as presented, I shall be glad to answer any questions shareholders may have to put at this meeting.

There being no questions, the Chairman proposed the adoption of the report and accounts. Mr. Jory seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried.

This concluded the business of the public meeting, which was followed by a private consultation between the liquidators and shareholders as to the most expeditious manner of bringing the winding up to a satisfactory conclusion.

MEETING OF THE SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 12th inst. There were present: Mr. J. S. Brown, President; Dr. Ayres, Colonial Surgeon; Mr. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart, Registrar-General; Mr. Geo. Hoskyns, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police; Mr. J. D. Humphreys, and Mr. M. McCallum (Secretary).

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

THE LICENSING OF COMMON LODGING-HOUSES. A set of amended by-laws, dealing with the licensing, regulation and sanitary maintenance of common lodging-houses was laid on the table, and it was said that the Committee had approved of them and recommended their adoption.

The by-laws were read and passed after slight amendments. It being decided to print and circulate them in Chinese and give the natives 3 months' notice prior to their coming into operation in November.

THE DISINFECTION OF PUBLIC VEHICLES. A discussion took place on this subject and it was ultimately decided to refrain from formally reading and discussing the new proposed by-laws pending the result of certain negotiations with the Colonial Surgeon (a member of the Board, who was present) relative to the disinfection of infected vehicles used for carrying diseased people to the Civil Hospital; the desire of the Board being that the Civil Hospital authorities should at once disinfect such vehicles and not allow them, as heretofore, to be kept in the compound until the Sanitary Superintendent causes the disinfection to be carried out.

MORTALITY RETURNS. The Secretary said that during the ten weeks, of this year, just ended there had been an excess of 35% over the returns for the corresponding period of 1890—14% of the excess were caused by chest affections and 11% by fevers.

MOUSE DRAINS. It was decided to unearth the drains in houses, 187, to 200, Hollywood Road, 6 Chong Hing Lane and 42 to 45, Lower Lucas Row, owing to their very insanitary condition.

REPORT FOR 1890. The Super's Annual Report for 1890 was laid on the table.

The Board adjourned for a fortnight.

CHARGE OF ASSAULT AGAINST A CHIEF OFFICER.

William King, chief officer of the British steamer *Ghase*, was charged at the Marine Court this morning (13th inst.) before Commd. Hastings, R.N., with assaulting James McCubbin, boatswain of the same steamer, on the 12th inst.

The complainant said that about 6.30 a.m. on the 12th inst. the defendant spoke to him roughly and he replied "Do you think I am an ordinary scamp?" The defendant then knocked him down and struck him several times about the head and face.

A. Finlay, seaman of the *Ghase*, said the crew turned to, as usual, at 6 a.m. on the 12th inst. The complainant and himself were "washing" paint work. The chief officer grumbled about the manner in which the work was done, and the boatswain replied "You speak to me as if I was an ordinary scamp." The defendant then caught complainant by the nose and throat and held him down on his knees for nearly a minute, until he was black in the face, and then with an oath knocked him down and said "I will do for you this time." The defendant struck the complainant several times violently on the head, and knocked him on the deck. Complainant got up and the defendant said "Have you had enough?" The complainant said "Yes, I've had enough," and the defendant again caught him and bumped his head on the dock several times. The complainant fled from the right out and there,

By the defendant.—You struck the complainant twice on the ear whilst he was lying on the deck. You got him down three times.

Charles Giffard, ordinary seaman, corroborated the last witness, and in reply to the defendant said—"You said you would do for him, when the complainant was down the second time."

The defendant said the complainant had given him a lot of trouble during the months he had been on board the steamer. Yesterday morning the boatswain was tumbling about the poop under the influence of liquor. He called him down and told him to go forward, but he refused and went back. He again called the complainant down, and losing his temper he caught him by the throat and gave him a slap on the ear. That was all he did. He never touched his nose or yet spoke to him.

The magistrate considered the charge proved and imposed a fine of \$15, with the alternative of 60 days' imprisonment with hard labour.

FIRE ON BOARD THE "ARRATOON APCAR."

As Messrs. Apcar's Calcutta liner *Arratoon Apca*, Captain Spence, was approaching the Kowloon wharf at half-past four yesterday afternoon (11th inst.), the alarm of fire was raised, and it was soon found that fire had broken out in the tween decks aft, where about 600 Chinese passengers—taken on board at Calcutta, Penang and Singapore—were huddled together. Signals of distress were hoisted at once, the ship was backed out of the wharf and anchored off Yau-mui Point, while the Police floating fire-engine and several boats and launches from the *Lander*, *Savoy* and other men-of-war quickly repaired to render assistance. Meanwhile the steamer's hose was brought to bear on the fire through holes cut in the deck of the saloon, and when the men-of-war's men got to work a torrent of water was poured down into the tween decks on top of the Chinese passengers' baggage—where the fire originated—and chests of opium and bales of jute. The first difficulty encountered by the officers of the ship was the removal of the Chinese from the tween decks, where they clung like grim death to portions of their luggage. However, with the application of a little "muscular persuasion" and a broom handle or two, the crowd were got on deck and driven—with what they could save—on deck. After this the "jacks" and "blues," had lit all their own way and soon succeeded in removing a lot of the cargo and baggage, thereby enabling the hose to play on the seat of the fire which was extinguished before 6 p.m. A large quantity of the passengers' baggage had been destroyed, while several chests of opium and some scores of bales of jute were damaged. How the fire originated is not yet positively known, but there seems to be some truth in the theory that the fire was kindled by suspicious characters who were on board for the purpose of having an opportunity of looting the baggage of several wealthy passengers who came up from Batavia and Singapore. That a large number of passengers' trunks were smashed open and the contents strewn about there can be no doubt whatever, and several passengers allege that they have lost all their valuables and a good deal of hard cash. Whether the fire originated in the manner suggested, or by pure accident, or owing to cargo in an improper condition being stored on board is a matter which can only be settled by the Court of Inquiry which will doubtless be held in the course of a day or two. The Marine Surveyors, Captains E. Burnie and G. C. Anderson, were on board this morning in the interests of the insurance companies prior to the order to "break bulk" being given. The total loss incurred by the fire is as yet unknown, but \$10,000 will hardly, it is said, cover the passengers' and shipowners' claims, as well as costs of general repairs to the ship herself.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

THE DIOCESAN HOME BUILDING FUND.

To the EDITOR of the "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH." Sir,—Will you allow me to draw attention to the kind offer of H.E. the Governor to give the £100 to the Diocesan Home Building Fund on condition that the remaining \$100 be subscribed? It is an effort to help us to realize as soon as possible the \$4,000 needed to meet a similar sum from the Government under the provisions of the grant-in-aid scheme. The subscription has been dragging its slow length along for more than a year, and every possible effort has been made in Hongkong and the Ports to obtain help. We are now in the last stage of collecting, the most difficult of all, and it is to encourage us in our difficulty that the Governor makes his offer. The object of the Home is well known. Eurasian and destitute European children are taken in as boarders and receive the necessary instruction to enable them to earn an honest livelihood. The number of these during last year was 66. Day scholars also are received, both English and Chinese. The teaching staff consists of three masters. As a school it has shown itself thoroughly efficient. This year, the year of its coming of age, it has specially distinguished itself by furnishing the Government scholar. The school comes behind no other in the colony. The present building is very old and not large enough to accommodate all that seek admission. It does not contain one really good and commodious school-room. The effort therefore to add a new wing is absolutely necessary for health and efficiency. To raise the \$100 needed to secure the Governor's offer I know not to whom to appeal unless to those who have so kindly helped us already. Will ten gentlemen give \$100 each in addition to what they have already given? If so, I will gladly add to my subscription the remaining \$62. Smaller contributions, however, will be most thankfully received, and will be acknowledged at once in the newspaper if sent to me at Mr. Piercy.

J. S. BURDON, Bishop, St. Paul's College, 13th March, 1891.

ALICE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

To the EDITOR of the "Hongkong Telegraph." Dear Sir,—I have received \$200 from the Victoria Recreation Club, per Mr. C. H. Thompson, on account of the Assault-at-arms held at the City Hall on the 3rd inst.

You faithfully,
E. W. MAITLAND,
Hon. Treasurer,
Alice Memorial Hospital,
Hongkong, 11th March, 1891.

"PIGEON" LOTTERIES IN CANTON.

One of the greatest existing evils in Canton, according to a Chinese contemporary is a mode of gambling called "Pigeon" lottery, which was prohibited by Vicerey Chang Chih-tung, who saw the evil effects on the people. It induces people to be idle and leads them to commit most atrocious crimes. Many a man has been reduced to abject poverty by attempting to obtain wealth by cast lots of gold locks.

Since the appointment of Li Han-chang to the Vice-ship of Liang Kuang, the "Pigeon" lottery has again been opened in the streets, where the people resort most, and legitimate business is greatly interfered with. The prominent business men and the citizens have sent in numerous memorials to the authorities asking them to check this gambling, but none of the high officials have given any attention to their petitions. It has been discovered, that the reason of their inattention is because a son of one of the highest authorities is a shareholder in one of the largest concerns, and bribes have been accepted by the officials. The streets are constantly filled with men of uncertain character who are the cause of much anxiety among business men, who fear lest their shops might be robbed at any time. The people actually have recourse to escape from it. The problem which must be solved cannot perhaps be solved; there can be no agreement between the implicit pretensions of the sovereign and the state and the requirements of international law; no true "comity of nations" is possible so long as the ancient Chinese belief holds the field. The knot cannot be untied, and will have to be cut, or gnawed, and it were better done, by some Emperor or statesman strong enough to cut it than that some foreign award should be the instrument.

It is no light task, therefore, which the statesmen of China of the present day have before them. The point of union between their political system and the laws of Heaven has been already found for them by their ancestors; what they have now to find is the point of union between their system and the systems of the rest of the world. While we reflect on the real difficulty of this problem, we need not wonder at the deceptions and subterfuges to which the mouth-pieces of the Government invariably recur to escape from it. The problem which must be solved cannot perhaps be solved; there can be no agreement between the implicit pretensions of the sovereign and the state and the requirements of international law; no true "comity of nations" is possible so long as the ancient Chinese belief holds the field. The knot cannot be untied, and will have to be cut, or gnawed, and it were better done, by some Emperor or statesman strong enough to cut it than that some foreign award should be the instrument.

The best hope of a peaceful solution of these thorny questions seems to lie in the wisdom of the Manchu rulers being directed to the discovery of some reconciling formula whereby the Providence of Heaven may be extended over the new province of their foreign relations. They are comparatively recent comers, and although, like the *nouveau riche* in Gilbert's operetta who adopted the family portraits and cherished the family tombs on the purchased estate, they have submitted to incorporation into the Chinese world of thought, the assimilation has not yet been so complete as that they should not retain considerable independence of mind. The greatest of their Emperors have done so. The Chinese tradition about foreigners had taken but slight hold of Kang Hsi, and had not completely mastered Ch'en Lung, and though doubtless since his day the process of Sinification has made further progress, there are still some strong minds near the Throne who may on adequate provocation, violate this as they have done certain other Chinese traditions. The Edict inviting the Foreign Ministers to Audience was issued apparently spontaneously by His Imperial Majesty, and though his intentions have been partially frustrated by Chinese tradition, as interpreted by his Ministers, the Emperor may after all be able to burst the mummy cloths in which his limbs are swathed and stand forth in his own person, like the young Emperor of Germany, as a man of his epoch. Where there is a will there is a way. —*Chinese Times.*

THE AUDIENCE DIFFICULTY.

By mutual concession a compromise between the Foreign Ministers and the Tsung-li Yamen is understood to have been arrived at which will enable the Audience to take place, probably within a few weeks. It would serve no useful purpose at present to canvass the details of the bargain, and we would rather take the occasion to consider some of the difficulties which have hindered the negotiations. Though the compromise implies that the question is not finally settled, it has no doubt been advanced a stage towards a complete and satisfactory conclusion at some future time; and the present crisis, like a transit of Venus, will furnish to those concerned many valuable data whereby the phenomena of the next transit may be calculated, and the true relations of things become better understood. The primary fact which emerges from recent as from all previous discussions on this subject seems to be this: that the reception of foreigners by the Emperor of China on terms of theoretical equality is an innovation which the Chinese must and will oppose strenuously inch by inch, and to which they will only yield under irresistible pressure. First they fight the principle, and when compelled for fear of consequences to give way on that, they will then renew the fight on every detail, conceding to the Ministers only the ultimate irreducible minimum of their demands. The recent discussion leaves no room for doubt that the Chinese contention is based on, to them, solid, permanent and even sacred grounds, and it is most important to have had this central fact brought out more so conspicuously to the proof. For it makes a great difference whether the opposition to the honourable reception of foreign representatives be due to considerations of mere temporary expediency, to the arrogance or whim of individuals, or to any personal policy whatever; or whether it be the natural operation of a principle rooted in the traditions of the empire, and the people.

The evidence goes to show that the assumption of universal supremacy by their Emperor represents a principle which expresses not so much a conviction of the Chinese as an instinct which is inherited and against which the facts and arguments of common life are equally impotent. To the ordinary Chinese mind the mere suggestion of a possible equality shocks the nerves or sends the man into fits of laughter. What, sit on the same *kang* with the Emperor! The incongruity is to a Chinaman like what the absurdities in "Alice in Wonderland" are to ourselves. By no process of painless dentistry can such fixed ideas be rooted up. All classes are permeated with them, the highest officials are bound by them, and even the Emperor himself seems no more able to escape from the national traditions than from the atmosphere which he breathes. Universal supremacy indeed must be of the essence of all theocratic government. The Son of Heaven can have no rival, and no equal.

And all government being primitive theoretically, it is not in China alone that this natural and logical corollary of the theocratic idea has been maintained, though it is there that it has taken the deepest hold on the social system. The assumption of universal supremacy has appeared under various forms in many parts of the world, but the collision of one infallibility with another has usually been sufficient to reciprocally cancel exclusive pretensions, and to bring the claims of all within limitations admitting of international intercourse. Yet even where special claims have been concretely fought out, the idea has often lingered like a ghost over the grave of its dead embodiment. How long, for example, the phantom of the Holy Roman Empire has survived the reality; and the tenacity with which the Papacy clings to the shadow of its vanished power suggests a not inapt analogy to the actual position of China holding fast to her divine right to supremacy after its *de facto* foundation has been shattered.

As China has been called the living museum of social archaisms may not this ineradicable presumption be simply the survival of a primitive, primitive conception which has been modified by conflict elsewhere, but which, protected here by the absence of any other Chinamen, wears a good deal of false hair, which is most artificially placed in with the rest, by the deft-fingered barber. *En passant* we may remark that the latter, like his foreign brethren, over a good deal of his importance to his enterprising, gossipy, and scandal-mongering

out of place in their system. Neither the missionaries of Christianity nor of politics, however, will be denied entrance, and tenderly as they may be disposed to deal with ancient, legendary growths, there is a well behind them which takes account of no law but that of its own progress, and which, with perhaps intermittent persistence, will push until this huge mass of China gives way, as before an irresistible flood.

It is no light task, therefore, which the statesmen of China of the present day have before them. The point of union between their political system and the laws of Heaven has been already found for them by their ancestors; what they have now to find is the point of union between their system and the systems of the rest of the world. While we reflect on the real difficulty of this problem, we need not wonder at the deceptions and subterfuges to which the mouth-pieces of the Government invariably recur to escape from it. The problem which must be solved cannot perhaps be solved; there can be no agreement between the implicit pretensions of the sovereign and the state and the requirements of international law; no true "comity of nations" is possible so long as the ancient Chinese belief holds the field. The knot cannot be untied, and will have to be cut, or gnawed, and it were better done, by some Emperor or statesman strong enough to cut it than that some foreign award should be the instrument.

THE CHINESE CLERK.

The essential point of difference between the life of the Chinese mercantile clerk and that of his European *confrere* is that he lives on the business premises. He usually has leave to return home to visit his wife and family about three times a month, on which occasions he stops away a day and night. The rest of his life is with the exception of occasional cuttings on business affairs, or to attend marriages, funerals or other functions, spent entirely in the "general" office with his fellow-clerks. It is here that he sleeps, performs his scanty ablutions, has his head shaved, eats, lounges, smokes, receives his friends, reads his paper or novel, and finally works. When the door is closed for the night, about 11 o'clock, the servants of the establishment bring in and set up each man's wooden treat-bed, and unroll his bed coverings, which are again rolled up and stowed away in the morning. His evening toilette is quickly made, as it merely consists in stripping, placing the garments on the top of the coverlet (of course we are speaking of winter), and slipping into bed, whence, after arranging his tail so that it shall fall over the pillow, he soon drops off to sleep, and usually, after a minute or two, proves his unconsciousness by loud and continued snoring. In winter this class of Chinese are not very early risers, the clerks slipping into their clothes about 7.30 or 8 o'clock. Their morning toilette is not much more extensive than the evening. Taking it in turns they coil their tails round their heads, half open the necks of their upper-garments, or sometimes strip to the waist, and with a great deal of puffing, spluttering, and eructation, wash their faces, necks, and hands in the little bright copper basin full of hot water which the servants or apprentices have brought in. Further, and perfectly sufficient hot-baths may be had at the public bath-houses for 7 cash and upwards, according to the class; but such extra luxury is purely a matter of individual taste. Some Chinese declare that it would hurt their health to take such baths, and remain forever unwashed; while others, including even coolies, make a point of taking regular baths, and are wonderfully clean and sweet by comparison. One bather usually serves the whole establishment, and periodically there is a grand head-shaving and brushing-out of tails. The clerk, as indeed almost all other Chinamen, wears a good deal of false hair, which is most artificially placed in with the rest, by the deft-fingered barber. *En passant* we may remark that the latter, like his foreign brethren, over a good deal of his importance to his enterprising, gossipy, and scandal-mongering

CHINAN FU.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
15th February, 1891.

Within the last few days some more changes have taken place among the officials in this city. The new Provincial Judge, Te'a Ping-chih, was suddenly ill and died last week. Just before he breathed his last, and while in an unconscious state, the foreign physician, Dr. Neal, was sent for, but it was too late to do anything. It is reported that the main cause of his death was due to a mistake made in the use of some native prescription. He had assumed office here only a little over two months, and leaves a family with a shattered ambition. One of the Taots, Chao Kuei-hus, is appointed to temporarily fill the vacancy.

Altogether he is a harmless sort of being, living in his little world of the office with no thought for anything beyond its horizon; his only anxieties, his dinner, his bed, or the exact value of a polished thumb-ring he has bought, and so we must leave him.—*Chinese Times.*

CHINAN FU.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)<br

THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH, THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1891.

THE EAST BORNEO PLANTING COMPANY, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders of the above Company was held at the office of Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co., at noon on the 16th inst., for the purpose of confirming a resolution passed on the 27th ult. There were present—Mr. B. Lyton (Chairman), Messrs. H. L. Dalrymple, A. P. Stokes, C. S. Sharp (Directors), S. L. Drury, W. Judd, W. H. Ray and C. F. Harton (Secretary).

The Chairman said the meeting was purely a formal one, called for the purpose of confirming a resolution to wind up the Company, which was passed on the 27th ult. He proposed "That the Company be wound up voluntarily under the provisions of the Companies Ordinance 1865-1890, that C. S. Sharp and L. Hallward, both of Hongkong, be, and they are hereby, appointed Liquidators for the purposes of such winding up."

Mr. Dalrymple seconded.

The motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting closed.

THE SONGEI KOYAH PLANTING COMPANY, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the above Company was held at the offices of the Managers (Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co.) on the 16th inst., for the purpose of confirming a resolution passed on the 27th ult. There were present—Messrs. B. Lyton (Chairman), H. L. Dalrymple, A. P. Stokes, W. Judd, W. H. Ray, C. S. Sharp, F. A. Gomes, E. A. de Carvalho, and C. F. Harton (Secretary).

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting,

Mr. Dalrymple proposed "That the Company be wound up voluntarily under the provisions of the Companies Ordinance 1865-1890, and that C. S. Sharp and L. Hallward, both of Hongkong, be, and they are hereby, appointed Liquidators for the purposes of such winding up."

Mr. Ray seconded.

The Chairman put the motion to the meeting, which was carried unanimously.

THE IAMAG PLANTING COMPANY, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the above Company was held at the offices of the General Managers (Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co.) on the 16th inst., for the purpose of confirming the special resolution passed at a meeting of the Company held on the 27th ult. These were present—Messrs. B. Lyton (Chairman), H. L. Dalrymple, A. P. Stokes, W. H. Ray, W. Judd, C. S. Sharp, F. A. Gomes and C. F. Harton (Secretary).

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting,

Mr. Dalrymple proposed "That the Company be wound up voluntarily under the Companies Ordinance 1865-1890, and that C. S. Sharp and L. Hallward, both of Hongkong, be, and they are hereby, appointed Liquidators for the purposes of such winding up."

Mr. Stokes seconded.

The Chairman put the motion to the meeting, and it was carried.

The meeting then terminated.

HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY, LIMITED.

The ordinary half-year meeting of shareholders in the above named Company was held at the Company's Office, this afternoon (17th inst.) for the purpose of receiving a Statement of the Accounts of the Company to 31st December, 1890, with the Report of the Directors, and "to discuss matters that might conveniently be brought before the meeting." There were present—Messrs. D. McCulloch (Chairman), E. Jones Hughes, Ho Tung, J. F. C. da Rosa (Director), P. Ryrie, W. H. Gaskell, H. G. James, W. H. Wallace, A. G. Stokes, N. J. Robinson, H. T. S. Green, C. A. Ozario, J. H. Cox, J. G. Phillipps, J. S. Peiry, R. Lylly (Secretary) and others.

The Chairman in opening the proceedings said:—Gentlemen, with your permission we will take the report and accounts as read. The report, I think, speaks for itself. The Hotel's business for the past six months shows a falling off both from local receipts and the number of people passing through here, who were fewer as compared with the last six months of 1890. The current half-year has opened fairly well. At present the Hotel is quite full, and there is every prospect of ample business for some time to come.

With regard to the accounts, the "Hotel Property Account" represents the land and buildings now occupied; "Remaining Portion of Marine Lot No. 7" represents the land and building in course of erection on Melcher's old site; "Praya Reclamation" is, of course, the lot now being reclaimed; "Sundry Debtors" are accounts owing to the Company, and the same account is now reduced to \$9,661.90. On the other side are Debentures 4½%—1 lac has been drawn and is payable on the 16th April, 1891, the balance is payable on the 10th April, 1895; "Sundry Creditors" are the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank \$127,581; interest on Debentures from 10th October to 31st December, 1890, \$4,800; Directors' and Auditors' fees \$1,150; and the other items "Net Earnings" of the Hotel, less all charges and expenses in connection with the same, with the exception of what you see stated in the printed accounts—plus the rental of the Hotel's shop. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be happy to answer any questions in connection with them that shareholders may desire to ask.

Mr. Gaskell said:—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, for some time past I have tried in vain to obtain certain information regarding the working expenses of the Hotel. Falling in this, I trusted that the report when published would have supplied the desired details, but I find that the document before us, like its predecessors, is ingeniously contrived, that it is impossible to trace, particularize, or identify any items of expenditure. There is then no recourse left to me but to endeavour at this meeting to elicit from the Directors the information I require. Before putting my questions *séparément*, I will prefacem them by stating that in my opinion the Hotel Company is practically insolvent. The Directors have the assurance to ask that three lacas of new capital be offered to the shareholders at a premium of 20 per cent, when the market quotation of shares is \$12 a share, and no buyers. The alleged object for "watering" the stock in this manner is to enable the Company to pay off a portion of the existing four lacas of debentures. The whole of this new capital cannot be applied to payment of these debentures, the finances of the Company are so heavily encumbered by payments to be made on account of the new wing, reclamation &c. Now, Mr. Chairman, it seems to me remarkable that you and your co-directors, have not made an effort to obtain temporary assistance from say, the Land Investment Co., who would probably have been able to render you some aid had you approached them at the proper time and in a proper manner. You, however, have preferred to attempt to double the capital of your Company at an exorbitant premium,

when you can only pay a wretched 6 per cent, by the greatest exertion, on your original capital of 3 lacas. I am not aware whether you have good reason to think that the new issue will be subscribed for, or if the Banks will advance on the new shares in view of the fact that all the security the Company can offer is already hypothecated against the debentures.

The re-election was carried.

Mr. Ho Tung was also re-elected, upon the motion of Mr. J. H. Cox seconded by Mr. J. S. Peiry.

With the re-appointment of Messrs. J. H. Cox and H. T. S. Green as auditors—upon the motion of Mr. W. H. Wallace seconded by Mr. Phillipps—the proceedings closed.

The following is the report:—

In accordance with Section 53 of the Articles of Association, the Directors have now to submit to you their Half-yearly Report for the six months ending 31st December, 1890.

BUSINESS.

The past half-year has been dull for Hotel business, but as our net earnings are almost identical with those of the corresponding half-year of 1890, the Directors hope that the result may be considered satisfactory.

PROPERTY.

The Premises occupied have been kept in a good state of repair during the past six months and the erection of the New North Wing is progressing satisfactorily.

SUBDIVISION OF SHARES AND INCREASE OF CAPITAL.

At Extraordinary Meetings held on the 9th January and 5th February last, special resolutions were passed and confirmed to subdivide the Company's \$100 shares into shares of \$50 each, and to increase the Capital of the Company by \$300,000 by the issue of 6,000 new shares of \$50 each at 20 per cent premium, to be offered to the present Shareholders, one half of said new capital and premium being payable on 31st instant; and the Directors do not think it will be necessary to call up the balance, at least not for some very considerable time.

Mr. Gaskell—But isn't there?

The Chairman—It is! The amount transferred from remaining portion of marine lot No. 7 is brought forward from last report.

Mr. Gaskell—But how much has been paid?

The Chairman—It is stated in the accounts.

Mr. Gaskell—Your reply is not satisfactory. You won't give me the information I ask for.

The Chairman—I'll send in before and asked about it I should have been prepared to go into details—now I'm not.

Mr. Gaskell—This is not the first time I've asked questions without getting a satisfactory reply. I have asked the Secretary previously about this and other matters, and have failed to get satisfactory information. Now, as regards a Sundry Creditors' \$114,993.92: Will you kindly tell me how that heavy sum is made up?

The Chairman—I've already explained that in my speech, but may add that the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank is a creditor to the extent of \$107,581 for overdrafts.

Mr. Gaskell—Overdrafts against what?

The Chairman—The money has been used in the current business of the Company, but—

Mr. J. H. Cox—Probably a portion of the amount was brought forward from the last half-year's account?

The Chairman—Yes. Really you must give notice of such questions of detail. If you apply to the Office or to the Secretary you will be able to ascertain such matters of detail.

Mr. Gaskell—Can I get the details I want from the Secretary to-morrow? I want full details of the \$114,993.92.

The Chairman—I'll give directions for you to have any I think should be given in the interests of the shareholders.

Mr. Gaskell—To what account is the amount of commission paid out on account of New Wing debited?

The Chairman—It is customary to debit the expenses of the unoccupied portion at 6 per cent. When that comes into occupation the whole building will be charged.

Mr. Gaskell—What are the "Sundry Debtors" amounting to \$2,000 odd dollars.

The Chairman—"Sundry Debtors" is now reduced by \$9,651.90, and the other is in course of collection.

Mr. Gaskell—Do you think the other \$11,000 will be collected before the next report?

The Chairman—Yes, if pressure is put on some of them. But they object to being pressed.

Mr. Gaskell—I would like you to say whether shareholders are secured by a first mortgage on the property?

The Chairman—As you yourself drew up the bond you should know very well.

Mr. Gaskell—Considering I did not draw it up, but merely worked out interest tables for you, I really don't know anything about it.

The Chairman said the company was a large holder of the bonds drawn, and he had no doubt those who had drawn bonds would take them up; if not, others would do so.

Mr. Gaskell—I understand they are not satisfied with the security—they have doubts.

The Chairman—That is not so.

Mr. Gaskell—Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Phillipps then put some questions relative to the "Share Account," and got a promise from the Chairman that he should be informed on the subject. He also desired to know what amount of commission had been paid to the architect. He heard the "com" amounted to \$3,200. He was told:—"If paid it doesn't matter. When it is paid it will be written off and debited in the usual way." After a further question the Chairman said it would be debited to "Property Account." The interrogator, continuing, asked where all the damages in connection with the suit with Mr. Chater were to be found in the accounts. He could only find Messrs. Johnston, Stokes and Masters' account. The Chairman said he would find it in the last account.

Mr. Cox—in the last account the amount debited was about \$5,000, if I remember correctly.

Mr. Phillipps, after thanking the Chairman for the information vouchsafed, resumed his seat.

The Chairman then formally moved the adoption of the Report and Accounts.

Mr. P. Ryrie, in seconding, said he thought, in spite of some of Mr. Gaskell's remarks which were decidedly strong, they should give the Board credit for working with fair success while circumstances had been against them. There had been legal expenses, various difficulties in the way, and the running business was not what it might have been. He thought they had not to look very far afield to know the causes of the losses. There had been bad times in this colony, and they were not much better now. He thought the present outlook was favourable and he had no doubt the Board was doing its best to make the concern profitable. With the exception of certain extraneous matters the results, so far, had been fairly satisfactory. All that was wanted was a current of prosperous times to make the concern pay larger dividends than hitherto. The new building would increase the value of the property by making it possible to accommodate more visitors. He heard recently that an order for 100 bedrooms for travellers on the new Canadian Pacific Co.'s steamer had been received, but that owing to lack of rooms it could not be complied with in full, as some of the people would go elsewhere. He thought the accounts were fairly satisfactory, and had much pleasure in seconding the proposition for their adoption.

The motion was then put to the vote and carried.

DIRECTORS.

The Chairman then said the re-election of himself as a Director was before the meeting.

Mr. J. H. Cox arose to propose his re-election, but Mr. Phillipps, seconded by Mr. Gaskell, was ahead of him, so he resumed his seat at once.

The re-election was carried.

Mr. Ho Tung was also re-elected, upon the motion of Mr. J. H. Cox seconded by Mr. J. S. Peiry.

With the re-appointment of Messrs. J. H. Cox and H. T. S. Green as auditors—upon the motion of Mr. W. H. Wallace seconded by Mr. Phillipps—the proceedings closed.

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The Chairman—It is!

The following is the report:—

In accordance with Section 53 of the Articles of Association, the Directors have now to submit to you their Half-yearly Report for the six months ending 31st December, 1890.

CONVENTION BETWEEN THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND THE TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.

The position of affairs as regards the much discussed action on the part of the Telegraph Companies has not materially changed since last year inasmuch as up to the present time the Convention remains unratified. Your Committee considered that probably the most effective manner of opposing the convention would be a direct appeal to Her Majesty. A petition was accordingly drawn up, and an invitation to other Chambers in China and Japan to co-operate with the Committee in presenting the petition to Her Majesty, would be graciously pleased to withhold her sanction to the ratification of the Convention, and among other contentions prominently given to the fact that any approach to granting a monopoly or exclusive privileges was calculated to endanger the rights conveyed by the "most favoured Nation" clause in the existing treaties between Her Majesty and the Emperor of China. The Chambers of Amoy, Foochow, Hankow, Ilipoo, Shanghai, Tientsin and Yokohama supported the petition which was widely circulated and, as shown in annexed copies of correspondence, generally approved of. The petition was forwarded through the local Government and duly acknowledged, eliciting the following remarks from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies dated 29th October, and 22nd November: "That the question of the Convention between China and the Telegraph Companies is now in abeyance, and the representations of your Chamber on the subject will be considered by Her Majesty's Government"; and "That the question of the Convention made in 1887 between the Chinese Government and the Telegraph Companies is now in abeyance, and that the representations of the Petitioners will be considered by Her Majesty's Government".

AUDIT.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. J. H. Cox and H. T. S. Green.

DIRECTORIAL SALARY.

Mr. D. McCulloch and Mr. Ho Tung retire by rotation, but are eligible for re-election.

AUDIT.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. J. H. Cox and H. T. S. Green.

PENNACLE ROCK FUND.

The attention of the Government was called to the desirability of connecting the Gap Rock lighthouse with Hongkong either by telegraph, or if practicable by telephone. Such a connection would possess the double advantage of keeping communication between the authorities and their employees at such times as the weather rendered ordinary intercourse dangerous, or impossible, and of affording early information of the approach of vessels from the South. The expenditure would be considerable, but the Committee think the ends aimed at would justify a large outlay, the funds for which might be easily raised if such a course was found desirable.

From information received from Mr. Judd, Manager of the Eastern Extension, Australian and China Telegraph Company, it appears that the most suitable description of cable would cost £1,500, while one of lighter construction could be obtained for £9,650.

THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH, THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1891.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

H.M.S. *Imperieuse* came out of the Admiralty Dock, Kowloon, on the 17th inst., after undergoing a general overhaul prior to being recommissioned.

The *Rising Sun* bears that a French vice-consul has been appointed to Nagasaki, and will shortly arrive there to take up the duties of the position.

According to a native paper the officials are now all out in force, praying for rain in the various temples in and out of Canton city. The brooks are dry, wells exhausted, and the fields are fearfully parched. This excessive dryness is one of the causes of the tragic epidemic.

The *Hupao* says that in the Hupeh province rain has been constantly falling for nearly a month without cessation. The roads are rendered impassable and farmers are very anxious about their crops of wheat, which must be inevitably ruined if good sunny weather does not give them a chance.

The Korean correspondent of the *Shanghai Mercury* writes from Seoul under date February 28th:—"The libel case preferred in the Imperial German Consulate by Major Lee, of a militia regiment of the United States, and who has been drill instructor to the Korean army for some time, has been withdrawn. The suit was against Mr. Schoniger, the chief commissioner of Customs. The gallant Major is about to leave Korea for good, and return to the United States."

It would appear that "my lord" of Connemara has not been received with open arms by all the British Consuls on the Coast. As a "social lion," in fact, he has been rather a frost at the three ports at which he has called; but in Foochow, we note, he was placed in "leading strings" by the compradores of the trading establishment which, with cutting sarcasm, is sometimes called the "Prince's House." His lordship visited the Viceroy and the Tartar General in Foochow city, and must have been considerably astonished, to say nothing of being gratified, when these two officials returned his call. He was also entertained at a banquet by his Celestial host at the Ewo Hong.

This is from the *Hupao*:—"During the terrible epidemic which has been raging in Canton, people were dying like flies. Funeral processions in grandiose style were of daily occurrence, and all efforts in the way of prayers, incense offering, and prohibiting of slaughter-houses have been of no avail against the onslaught of the evil deity who seems determined to strip off the densely crowded population of the city. The magistrate, as a last resource, has borrowed an ancient brass drum from a certain temple, which he considers, has magical influence in warding off the epidemic. The drum is carried about the streets in great style, a procession of flags, incense burners, horses and chairs preceding, following, and crowding around it. The reduction in the rate of mortality is imperceptible. The magistrate, however, imagines that the wonderful drum has done a great deal of good. As the prisoners in the jail of the magistrate's yamen are nearly all attacked, as is only natural, by the epidemic his Honor has ordered the drum to be placed in the jail as the only means to preserve his prisoners and prevent them from leaving wholesale."

A MEETING of members of the Polo Club was held in the Cricket Pavilion yesterday afternoon (16th inst.), to decide whether the usual Sky meeting under the auspices of the Club should be held or not. It was proposed some time ago that an afternoon's racing might easily be arranged, and that a day in April be fixed for the meeting. It appears, however, that there has been dissension in the camp, for it was stated yesterday that four cups, which had been promised as prizes, were now withdrawn. Whether this was owing to the dandies having repented of their gentry, or to tightness of funds was not explained; but as the "pits" given at these little meetings—which have hitherto been of a most evitable nature—are generally valued at about \$30, there seems to be more in this business than has been explained, and no doubt the usual underground engineering has been resorted to. On the question being put to the vote, it was decided by the narrow majority of two that the meeting be not held. Eight voted for, and ten against the proposal.

LIU MING-CHUAN, Governor of Formosa, is still on the sick list and continues to persevere from the responsibilities of his position. Another memorial to the Throne is published in the *Peking Gazette* of February 10th, in which he says that his leave was ended on the 28th of the moon, but he is far from recovered from his malady, and he is far from recovered from his malady. He was then graciously granted three months' sick-leave, but was not allowed to leave his post. Now, he says, he is suffering from giddiness, swelling of the lower extremities, dim eye-sight, numbness of upper extremities and general debility, and his medical advisers report that he will eventually have a hemiplegia if he does not leave his official cares. Since last spring he has not been able to review the troops and the general works on the island, on account of bodily weakness. His illness last summer has weakened his constitution a great deal. He also has charge of the post of Chief Examiner, and the Triennial Examination will take place in the coming spring, which will require his personal superintendence, but he fears his sickness will prevent him. Therefore, he begs to be allowed to return to his native home for treatment, and hopes the Throne will take mercy on him, and grant his request. The Imperial response to this supplication is in the curt receipt—"We have more to say."

A powerfully looking character who claimed to be the possessor of the appropriate name of Bill Swan, and three other alias pals—all birds of a feather—Herdwick, Blaine and Faik-Nix to wit, left their native element—the water, and took to ardent spirits for a change last night (March 16th). They commenced operations at the "Rose Shamrock" and "Fistic," whence, after a time, they made their way to the "Globe," "The Grand" and other select taverns in the locality. Their fun in this meantime, though, was of a very tame nature for strange to say they could not find a single man who was willing to tackle the whole four at one time, so, spoiling for a "fumpus" they walked abroad and ultimately ran against P.C. Duncan Fraser at the bottom of Pedder's Street. The temptation to "duck" Duncan is the "briny," was irresistible, and the four gallants at once set to work. A desperate struggle ensued, and the weight of numbers was beginning to tell heavily against the constable who at this time was being gradually worked to the edge of the pier, when two Highlanders belonging to the pilot Regiment, rushed to his rescue and probably saved him from a watery grave. The "ducks" were quickly overpowered and in a very short time were safely lodged in gaol. They were up before Mr. Wicks this morning and were sentenced to twenty months, and we mean to a fine of \$100 with the alternative of fifteen days' hard labour. We presume, here to speak on the subject, yielded a full confession, but there were only eight persons while the business closed. He had no

says the *Shanghai Mercury*.—We hear that there is a strong probability of a new tug-boat company being shortly started in Shanghai, and from what we are told, the shareholders of the new enterprise will be composed mainly of persons connected with local shipping and insurance interests. It is said that a large and powerful sea-going tug, fitted with wrecking pump and diving apparatus, is to be built immediately, and will be followed by another, or possibly two, similar vessels to carry on the business of the company.

The *Rising Sun* bears that a French vice-consul has been appointed to Nagasaki, and will shortly arrive there to take up the duties of the position.

According to a native paper the officials are now all out in force, praying for rain in the various temples in and out of Canton city. The brooks are dry, wells exhausted, and the fields are fearfully parched. This excessive dryness is one of the causes of the tragic epidemic.

The *Hupao* says that in the Hupeh province rain has been constantly falling for nearly a month without cessation. The roads are rendered

impassable and farmers are very anxious about their crops of wheat, which must be inevitably ruined if good sunny weather does not give them a chance.

The *Shanghai Mercury*—We hear that a Chinese named the *Chia-wan-tai*, from Ningpo to Shanghai, was in collision with the *Caledonia* outward bound on Saturday night, and that two of the *lorcha*'s passengers are missing. The steamer lowered her boats, but as the *lorcha* did not sink they were hoisted up again, and the *Caledonia* proceeded.

SUPREME COURT.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

(Before Mr. Fielding Clarke, Justice Judge.)

March 18th.

JEDDA SINGH v. P. F. CARNEIRO AND ANOTHER.

This was an action to recover the sum of \$50 on a promissory note.

Mr. Rodyk (of Messrs. Holmes and Rodyk) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Caldwell for the defendants.

The plaintiff said a man named Nunes met him and told him he wanted to borrow \$50 for a friend. The money was lent on the promissory note produced, which was signed by both defendants. Nunes had since left the Colony.

Cross-examined—Nunes was a money broker, and he told him he wanted the money for the defendants. He gave him their names as Carneiro and Santos. He did not know Nunes before. The promissory note was written and signed before he gave the money. He had lent money before, and did so to get interest. Nunes agreed to give him \$3 per month as interest on the loan. The receipt of interest for one month, the rate of interest was not written on the promissory note.

Mr. Caldwell said the defence was that there was no consideration.

P. F. Carneiro, clerk, Chartered Bank, said he admitted the signature on the promissory note. At the time it was his intention to borrow \$25, and he had asked Nunes to get the money for him.

A few days after Nunes told him he had got an Indian to lend him the money. The note was written by Nunes, and at the time of signing witness remarked that the promissory note was for \$50. Nunes said Mr. Santos wanted \$25 also, and as he could get the amount from an Indian he thought if they both signed the note it would be all right. Witness then signed it. He never received any part of the \$15 or the \$50. He had never paid Nunes any interest to the plaintiff, and the latter had never asked him for money. He did not know what had become of the note, but he thought it was destroyed.

Cross-examined—He had been two years at the Chartered Bank and had never borrowed money before. He had only known Nunes a few months previously, but he went to him because he knew he could get money. He had never seen the plaintiff before, and he did not know how the plaintiff should know him.

Mr. Francis took exception to the writ, in that it had only been served on one of the defendants instead of upon the whole of them.

Mr. Pollock said they had only served the first defendant with a writ, and not the others. He only asked for judgment against that defendant.

Mr. Francis submitted that in their petition they sued against the whole of the defendants.

His lordship said he did not see why the first defendant could not be proceeded against.

Mr. Francis said if his lordship was satisfied to set aside the whole of the case in the procedure, of course he could not object.

His lordship said that that was not a proper way to address the Court. It was not right to say that he (his lordship) was setting aside the law.

Mr. Francis said he did not know what to say, but the plaintiff had only served one defendant and he was bound to serve all the others. He submitted his lordship had no power to proceed against the first defendant, and according to the code the plaintiff had not taken one single point to serve the notices of writ properly. There were two defendants named and others, yet plaintiff had only served the first defendant.

M. Pollock said the second defendant named was out of the jurisdiction of the Court and they could not serve him. He was willing to allow the writ to be amended by striking all the names out but that of the first defendant.

Mr. Francis said the plaintiff had had permission to amend the writ by adding two more names and yet they had not made service against them.

His lordship said he would adjourn the case to allow plaintiff to serve the whole of the defendants.

Mr. Francis applied for the costs of the day.

Mr. Pollock said he would make no order at present.

IN CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

March 18th.

THE BOWEN ROAD ROBBERY.

Chéung Ayau was charged with feloniously wounding Lun Anan, and of robbing her of jewellery, value at \$24, on the Bowen Road on the 25th February.

The Attorney-General (Mr. W. M. Goodman) prosecuted.

The prisoner pleaded "not guilty" to the charge of feloniously wounding, but admitted robbing the complainant of her jewellery.

His lordship entered a plea of not guilty.

The jury were—Messrs. A. F. Machado, P. Renan, R. B. Polswall, J. Armstrong, A. Byers, F. G. Collins and P. Vitkowski.

The Attorney-General said the prison was charged under two counts which were:—first, that he robbed and wounded a girl named Lun Anan, and secondly, that he robbed another girl named Wong Achun, together with another man not in custody.

The facts of the case were that on the part of Bowen Road which overlooks Happy Valley, there is a rock called the stone of love, which is visited by inmates of brothels who suppose that the stone brings them some charm. On the 25th February, six or seven young girls from Cochrane Street visited the stone and were returning homeward by the Bowen Road. When they had got about half way along the road, the prisoner and another man jumped out from the bushes and the prisoner was armed with two swords and the other with a revolver. The prisoner caught hold of Lun Anan, threw her on the ground, took from her some jewellery comprising four rings and a pair of earrings, and got \$24, and hit her on the cheek. He then went after another girl, who was running away with the rest, and took from her some jewellery. The prisoner and his companion then made off in the direction of Kennedy Road. A watchman named Ismael saw the prisoner running and very properly, and wisely, I call it, caught hold of his left arm and found the two swords, and in the other hand he found two pairs of earrings. The prisoner was thereupon arrested and taken to the Station. He (the Attorney-General) thought he would be able to prove that the man had something up his sleeve, caught hold of his left arm and found the two swords, and in the other hand he found two pairs of earrings.

The prisoner said he did not ask for costs.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

(Before Sir James Russell, Chief Justice.)

March 12th.

In re SUI CHI.

The bankrupt appeared to pass his final examination.

Mr. Hastings (of Messrs. Watson and Descomps) appeared for the bankrupt and Mr. Wilkinson (of Messrs. Caldwell and Wilkinson) appeared on behalf of several creditors.

Mr. Hastings said he had only seen the two affidavits this morning, but he did not think there was anything in them.

Mr. Wilkinson said as he informed his lordship he had two affidavits to put in, one of which was to the effect that the bankrupt had got \$100, and the other that he had had property in Hong Kong.

His lordship asked what there was in the affidavits after all. It was one person telling some one else, and so forth. There was nothing reliable in such statements.

"I have recently made enquiries who was I? and then the affidavit contained 'and they informed me,' who were they?"

Mr. Wilkinson said the bankrupt had a share in the Wing Wo Hing shop, and that was a valuable asset.

His lordship—Where are the Wing Wo Hing people?

Mr. Wilkinson said they would have to be subpoenaed and it was impossible for him to do that.

Sui Chi was called and examined by Mr. Wilkinson, in reply to whom he said he had been trading in Hong Kong five years in the Wing Wo Hing Co. There were several partners at the commencement, but there were only eight partners while the business closed. He had no

share in any other business. He had never become acquainted with the master of the Wing Wo Hing.

His lordship—There is a ship the Queen's Road outward bound on Saturday night, and that two of the *lorcha*'s passengers are missing. The steamer lowered her boats, but as the *lorcha* did not sink they were hoisted up again, and the *Caledonia* proceeded.

You never told Yip Wang that you find a share in the Wing Wo Hing?—No.

Had you any interest in that shop before filing your petition in bankruptcy?—No.

A man says here that you have property in the country?—I have not.

Lin Yip Wang, a dealer in copper and iron, said the bankrupt had told him he had property in China, but this with other assertions the witness failed to substantiate.

Mr. Hastings submitted that his client should pass his last examination, and that he be granted his discharge. The last witness contradicted him several times and the affidavits were only statements of hearsay.

Mr. Wilkinson asked that the master might stand over for a short time, in order that he might get the Wing Wo Hing people to attend.

His lordship said he could not believe the last witness and did not see the necessity of further adjournment. The bankrupt was therefore allowed to pass his last examination.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

March 16th.

Lin YIK U v. TSANG HSUNG PUI AND OTHERS.

The plaintiff claimed the sum of \$1,332.00 from the defendants, carrying on business at No. 68, Bonham Street as the Sang Chan Wo shop for goods deposited by the plaintiff to be sold on commission.

Mr. Pollock, instructed by Messrs. Caldwell and Wilkinson, appeared on behalf of the plaintiff and Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., instructed by Messrs. Johnston, Stokes and Master, for the defendants.

Mr. Francis took exception to the writ, in that it had only been served on one of the defendants instead of upon the whole of them.

Mr. Pollock said they had only served the first defendant with a writ, and not the others. He only asked for judgment against that defendant.

Mr. Francis submitted that in their petition they sued against the whole of the defendants.

His lordship said he did not see why the first defendant could not be proceeded against.

Mr. Francis said if his lordship was satisfied to set aside the whole of the case in the procedure, of course he could not object.

His lordship said that that was not a proper way to address the Court. It was not right to say that he (his lordship) was setting aside the law.

Mr. Francis said he did not know what to say, but the plaintiff had only served one defendant and he was bound to serve all the others. He submitted his lordship had no power to proceed against the first defendant, and according to the code the plaintiff had not taken one single point to serve the notices of writ properly. There were two defendants named and others, yet plaintiff had only served the first defendant.

Mr. Pollock said the second defendant named was out of the jurisdiction of the Court and they could not serve him. He was willing to allow the writ to be amended by striking all the names out but that of the first defendant.

Mr. Francis said the plaintiff had had permission to amend the writ by adding two more names and yet they had not made service against them.

His lordship said he would adjourn the case to allow plaintiff to serve the whole of the defendants.

Mr. Francis applied for the costs of the day.

Mr. Pollock said he would make no order at present.

IN CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

March 18th.

THE HONGKONG POLICE v. THE DOCK CO.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

No. 2797.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1891.

SIX DOLLARS
PER QUARTER

Banks.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL \$9,206,677.07
RESERVE FUND 6,806,596.31
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS \$9,206,677.07

COURT OF DIRECTORS.—
CHAIRMAN—J. S. MOSES, Esq.
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN—S. C. MICHAELSEN, Esq.
H. L. DALRYMPLE, Esq. | Hon. J. J. KEEWICK.
T. E. DAVIES, Esq. | A. MC CONACHIE, Esq.
W. H. FORBES, Esq. | L. POKORNICKER, Esq.
J. C. HOLLIDAY, Esq. | D. R. SASSON, Esq.
H. HOPPIUS, Esq.

ACTING CHIEF MANAGER,
HONGKONG—F. DE BOVIS, Esq.

MANAGER,
SHANGHAI—JOHN WALTER, Esq.
LONDON BANKERS—LONDON AND
COUNTY BANK.

HONGKONG—INTEREST ALLOWED.
ON CURRENT DEPOSIT ACCOUNT at
the rate of 1 per cent, per Annum on the
daily balance:

ON FIXED DEPOSITS—
For 3 months, 3 per cent per Annum.
For 6 months, 4 per cent per Annum.
For 12 months, 5 per cent per Annum.

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.
CREDITS granted on approved Securities,
and every description of BANKING and
EXCHANGE business transacted.

DRAFTS granted on London, and the chief
commercial places in Europe, India, Australia,
America, China and Japan.

F. DE BOVIS,
Acting Chief Manager.
Hongkong, 28th February, 1891.

RULES OF THE HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK.

THE BUSINESS of the above BANK
will be conducted by the HONGKONG
AND SHANGHAI BANKING
CORPORATION, on their premises in
Hongkong. Business Hours on WEEK-
DAYS, 10 to 1; SATURDAYS, 10 to 1.

SUMS LESS THAN \$1, or MORE THAN
\$250 at one time will not be received. No
Depositor may deposit more than \$2,500
in any one year.

DEPOSITORS in the SAVINGS BANK,
having \$100, or more, at their credit may at
their option transfer the same to the HONG-
KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING
CORPORATION on fixed deposit for 12
months at 5 per cent per annum interest.

INTEREST at the rate of 3½% per
annum will be allowed to Depositors on
their daily balances.

EACH DEPOSITOR will be supplied gratis
with a PASS-BOOK, which must be presented
with each payment or withdrawal.

Depositors must not make any entries them-
selves in their Pass-Books, but should send
them to be written up at least twice a year,
about the beginning of January and
beginning of October.

CORRESPONDENCE as to the Business
of the Bank, if marked ON HONGKONG
SAVINGS BANK BUSINESS, will be
forwarded free by the various British Post
Offices in Hongkong and China.

WITHDRAWALS may be made on demand,
but the personal attendance of the
Depositor or his duly appointed Agent, and
the production of his PASS-BOOK, are
necessary.

FOR THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION.

F. DE BOVIS,
Acting Chief Manager.
Hongkong, 1st January, 1891.

THE NEW ORIENTAL BANK
CORPORATION, LIMITED.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL £1,000,000,
PAID-UP CAPITAL £500,000.

LONDON: Head Office, 40, Threadneedle Street,
West End Office, 25, Cockspur Street.

BRANCHES IN INDIA, CHINA, JAPAN
AND THE COLONIES.

THE BANK receives MONEY ON DEPOSIT,
Buys and Sells Bills of EXCHANGE,
Issues LETTERS OF CREDIT, forwards BILLS for
COLLECTION, and Transacts Banking and
Agency Business generally, on terms to be had
on application.

INTEREST ALLOWED on DEPOSITS:
Fixed for 12 months, 5 per cent. per Annum.
" " 6 " 4 "
" 3 " 3 " "

ON CURRENT DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS
5 per cent. per Annum on the Daily Balance.

E. W. RUTTER,
Manager. [10]

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT
AND AGENCY COMPANY, LIMITED.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL \$1,000,000.
PAID UP CAPITAL \$1,000,000.
RESERVE FUND \$1,000,000.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Hon. J. J. KEEWICK
Chairman
Hon. C. P. CHATER Managing Director.
Vice-Chairman

LEE SING, Esq.
S. C. MICHAELSEN, Esq.
J. S. MOSES, Esq.
G. E. NOBLE, Esq.
FOON PONG, Esq.
D. R. SASSON, Esq.

BANKERS
THE HONGKONG & SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION.

MONEY advanced on Mortgage, on Land,
Buildings, Properties purchased and sold,
Estates Managed and all kinds of Agency and
Commission business relating to Land, etc.,
conducted.

Full particulars can be obtained at the
Company's Offices, No. 5, Queen's Road Central.

A. SHELDON HOOPER,
Secretary.

Victoria Building,
Hongkong, 2nd May, 1891.

Intimations.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

MUSICAL DEPARTMENT.

PIANOS

FOR SALE from \$350 in Solid Cases, Iron Frames, etc., suitable for this Climate.

PIANOS

FOR HIRE from \$10 per Month. Pianos on the Monthly-Payment System from \$15 per Month.

Pianos Tuned. Pianos Repaired.

A large selection of Violins, Tenors, Banjos, Guitars, Mandolins, Zithers, Cornets, Saxophones, Bassoons, Euphoniums, Trombones, Clarinets, Oboes, Flutes, Piccolos, Fifes, and Flageolets.

Complete equipment for Brass and String Bands. Strings and Fittings for all Musical Instruments.

Well Selected Stock of Music.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

Hongkong, 28th February, 1891.

Notices of Firms.

occidental and oriental steam-
ship company.

NOTICE.

DURING my absence from Hongkong, Mr. J. S. VAN BUREN takes charge of the Business of the Company as ACTING AGENT.

CHAS. D. HARMAN, Agent.

Hongkong, 14th March, 1891. [433]

PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

NOTICE.

DURING my absence from Hongkong, Mr. J. S. VAN BUREN takes charge of the Business of the Company as ACTING AGENT.

CHAS. D. HARMAN, Agent.

Hongkong, 14th March, 1891. [434]

NOTICE.

Captain A. Mitts will be despatched, as above, on SUNDAY, the 22nd instant, at 10 a.m., taking Cargo at through rates to CALCUTTA, MADRAS, PERSIAN GULF, BLACK SEA, LEVANT, and ADRIATIC PORTS.

Cargo will not be received on board after 3 P.M. prior to date of sailing.

For further information as to Passage and Freight, apply to

DAVID SASSON, SONS & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 12th March, 1891. [416]

"SHIRE" LINE OF STEAMERS.

FOR NAGASAKI, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

THE Steamship

"BRECONSHIRE."

Captain Jackson, will be despatched on or about the 23rd inst.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

ADAMSON, BELL & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 16th March, 1891. [430]

Consignees.

"MOGUL" LINE OF STEAMERS.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

STEAMSHIP "MACDUFF"

FROM MIDDLESBROUGH, GLASGOW, LIVER-

POOL, PENANG AND SINGAPORE.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo are hereby informed

that all goods are being landed at their

risk into the Godowns of the Kowloon

Godown Company, at Kowloon, whence

and/or from the wharves delivery may be

obtained.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless

noticed to the contrary be given before Noon,

TO-DAY.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods

have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining

after the 24th inst., will be subject to reate.

All claims against the Steamer must be pre-

sented to the Undersigned on or before the 24th

inst., or they will not be recognised.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

ADAMSON, BELL & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 18th March, 1891. [412]

**occidental and oriental steam-
ship company.**

NOTICE.

CONSIGNEES of CARGO per Steamship

"GAELIC."

The above Steamer having arrived, Consignees of

Cargo are hereby requested to send in their

Bills of Lading for Countersignature, and to take

immediate delivery of their Goods from along-

side.

Cargo impeded the discharge of the Vessel

will be landed and stored at Consignees' risk

and expense.

J. S. VAN BUREN,

Acting Agent.

Hongkong, 14th March, 1891. [413]

SAILING VESSELS.

FOR NEW YORK.

THE 3/3 L. I. American Ship

"IMPERIAL."

Crosby, Master, will load here for the above

Port, and will have quick despatch.

For Freight, apply to

RUSSELL & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 31st January, 1891. [413]

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.

THE 3/3 L. I. American Ship

"STERLING."

Goodwin, Master, will load here for the above

Port, and will have quick despatch.

For Freight, apply to

RUSSELL & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 15th January, 1891. [414]

Mails.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG, 1891.

Empress of India, | Tuesday... | April 7th.

Paragon, | Tuesday... | May 5th.

Empress of Japan | Tuesday... | June 2nd.

THE Steamship

"EMPEROR OF INDIA."

Captain O. P. Marshall, R.N.R., sailing at Noon,

Intimations.

DAKIN BROS. OF CHINA,
L I M I T E D,
DISPENSING CHEMISTS, &c.

PURE WINES.

WE beg to invite careful attention to the following selection from our Wine List, for we have succeeded in combining purity and excellence of quality with moderate prices.

SHERRY.

per case, per bottle.

Vino Generoso—a generous round wine, green seal.....	\$ 6.00	\$ 6.60
Vino Depasto—a medium dry wine with delicate flavour, red seal.....	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00
Amonillado—a high class natural wine for connoisseurs of Sherry, yellow seal.....	\$ 1.10	\$ 1.10
Deliciso—the very finest sherry procurable, 6 years in bottle.....	\$ 14.00	\$ 1.25
PORT.		
Superior quality.....	\$ 10.00	\$ 1.10
Invalid Port, gold seal.....	\$ 12.00	\$ 1.10
Old Towny, soft and mature, black seal.....	\$ 1.20	\$ 1.25
Specially selected old vintage.....	\$ 10.00	\$ 1.75

BURGUNDY.		
Bonne—full-bodied Red Burgundy with strengthening properties.....	\$ 14.00	\$ 1.25
Chablis—a mellow White Burgundy, fine flavour and bouquet.....	\$ 14.00	\$ 1.25
CHAMPAGNE.		
Avire—a well matured, specially selected dry wine.....	\$ 1.75	\$ 1.75
Lemonade—Vin-brut—Cuvée Royale. As Supplied regularly to the Prince of Wales, House of Commons, and the club clubs in London, &c. &c.	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00
Per case of 24 bottles.....	\$ 3.00	\$ 1.00

We are sole Agents in China for the Sale of this splendid Wine.

(Telephone No. 60.)

Nos. 22 & 24, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, Hongkong, 9th March, 1891.

BY APPOINTMENT.

WINES AND SPIRITS.
A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

MANUFACTURERS OF AERATED
WATERS.

Our New Factory has been recently refitted with automatic Steam Machinery of the latest and most approved kind, and we are well able to compete in quality with the best English Makers.

The purest ingredients only are used, and the utmost care and cleanliness are exercised in the manufacture throughout.

LARGE BOMBAY
" SODAS "

We continue to supply large bottles as heretofore, free of Extra Charge, to those of our Customers who prefer to have them to the ordinary size.

COAST PORT ORDERS, whenever practicable, are despatched by first steamer leaving after receipt of order.

FOR COAST PORTS, Waters are packed and placed on board ship at Hongkong prices, and the full amount allowed for Packages and Empties when received in good order.

Counterfeited Order Books supplied on application.

Our Registered Telegraphic Address is,
"DISPENSARY, HONG KONG,"
And all signed messages addressed thus will receive prompt attention.

The following is a List of Waters always kept ready in Stock:—

PURE AERATED WATERS

SODA WATER

LEMONADE

POTASH WATER

SELTZER WATER

LITHIA WATER

SARSAFARILLA WATER

TONIC WATER

GINGER ALE

GINGERADE.

No Credit given for bottles that look dirty, or greasy, or that appear to have been used for any other purpose than that of Containing Aerated Water, as such bottles are never used again by us.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED,
Hongkong, China, and Manila.

[5]

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1891.

A MILITARY PROPHET.

LOD WOLSELEY, Britain's "only General," and a pen-and-ink soldier at that, has been trying his "prentice han" at prophecy in a recent issue of the *Review of Reviews*. He says, China is the coming nation, and that the Mongolians will over-run the world. Here are a few chunks of wisdom from the pen of the pipe-clay warrior who didn't believe Goanow at Kharoutam:

"The battle of Armageddon will take place between the Chinese and the English-speaking races. There will be, I assume, another war between France and Germany, and it will be about the bloodiest war or series of wars which we have seen in Europe. But, someday, a great general or lawgiver will arise in China, and the Chinese, who have been motionless for three centuries, will begin to progress. They will take to the profession of arms, and then they will hurl themselves upon the Russian Empire; in the wildest dreams of its most ambitious and pugnacious rulers the idea of overrunning India and sweeping us into the sea has never found a place; and the general or statesman who seriously proposed to the Dragon Throne to make a clean sweep of England, America and Australia, would be shorter by a head before he had time to think twice. China is not a military nation, she has no ambitious schemes of conquest, and she only wants to be left alone to pursue her destiny in her own way. For the protection of her own rights she will fight stubbornly against all comers, but outside the limits of the Minnow Kuangpo and its dependencies she has no desire for conquest, and if

down a long-eared ass. Lord WOLSELEY's assumption as to another war between France and Germany, which he says will be the bloodiest war ever seen in Europe, may or may not be well founded—probably it is—but when he enters on Chinese territory his superficial knowledge cannot be hidden. He confidently prophesies that some day a great general or law-giver will arise in China, and the Chinese, who have been motionless for three centuries, will then begin to progress. China flatters itself at the present moment that it possesses not one but many law-givers, who can doubly discount the legal lights of all other nations, and we must admit that CHAO CHIH-TUNG, LI HUNG-CHANG, and several of the sages of the Tsung-li Yamen would take a lot of beating in any branch of practical diplomacy. As law-giving, pure and simple, that in China is all but universally influenced by the forcible persuasion of that simple and homely article, the national bamboo. Whether China can boast of any great generals we really are not in position to say; if they were judged from the standpoint of European military science they would probably be found sadly wanting, although brave enough in the field and perfect masters of strategy according to Chinese ideas. His Excellency LIU MING-CH'UAN, Governor of Formosa, bears the reputation of being a courageous and skilful soldier, and it is undoubted that he more than held his own against the French troops when Admiral DE LESPES attacked Tamsui; but acting on the defensive behind earthworks is one thing and marshalling and directing an army in the open field is quite another. There were other Chinese commanders who fought gallantly and with a fair amount of success against the French commanders in the Tonquin affair; but it would be the height of folly to pretend that the whole Chinese Army contains one general capable of conducting a campaign on anything like even terms with the faintest prospect of success against an army commanded by a skilled European.

And who told Lord WOLSELEY that the Chinese Empire had been standing still for three centuries? How a man in his lordship's position can lay himself open to ridicule by making such absurd statements it is not easy to imagine. Lord WOLSELEY must know that within the past sixty years China has been going slowly but steadily ahead; that she has had wars on four occasions with European Powers—with Great Britain twice, with France and with Russia; that, once isolated from the rest of the world, she has now international relations and commerce with all nations; that steamers flying the dragon flag sail on every sea; that huge iron-clads and fast-steaming torpedo craft have taken the place of the old fashioned junks; that the Empire is intersected with telegraph wires, while railways, electric lighting, water-works on foreign principles, mining in every branch, and other foreign innovations are making progress everywhere. And this is what Lord WOLSELEY terms "standing still."

FILL your mind with useful information, my young friend," said the missionary. "Remember, the empty bag cannot stand upright." "What's the matter with Baldwin's balloon?" asked the irreverent youth.

How is this for high? An American paper says that in the Taiping rebellion of a third of a century ago in China, the Emperor raised a large army of women to assist his male soldiers for the sake of the best English Makers.

The purest ingredients only are used, and the utmost care and cleanliness are exercised in the manufacture throughout.

LARGE BOMBAY
" SODAS "

We continue to supply large bottles as heretofore, free of Extra Charge, to those of our Customers who prefer to have them to the ordinary size.

COAST PORT ORDERS, whenever practicable, are despatched by first steamer leaving after receipt of order.

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Hongkong, China, and Manila.

[5]

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1891.

that desire did exist she has no power to carry it out. The next time Lord WOLSELEY rushes into print regarding matters Chinese, it would be just as well if he took the trouble to verify their ridiculous impressions he appears to have formed on more hearsay, or the idle chatter of some irresponsible globe-trotter.

TELEGRAMS.

CONTINUED SEVERE WEATHER IN ENGLAND.

LONDON, March 12th.

There has been a blizzard of unexpected violence in Great Britain. Trains were blocked all night in the south-east of England, and the Channel packets were 12 hours late in arriving at their destination. The Lydd lifeboat in going to some wrecks was capsized, and seven of the crew were drowned. The fall of snow in London is unabated.

FANCY PRICE FOR CEYLON TEA.

A small lot of tea from the Gartmore Estate has been sold at ten pounds twelve shillings and six pence per pound.

BRITISH STEAMER SEIZED BY PORTUGUESE.

March 17th.

The Portuguese have seized a British steamer on the Limpopo river. The Times says that Portugal must be held accountable for the outrage.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

For the first time in its history the United States last year produced more pig-iron than Great Britain.

We are requested to remind the friends of the Warrent officers and Garrison staff that the usual practice will be held this evening at the Commissariat Buildings.

AMONGST the arrivals today we note that of the Mu Loong shop, No. 9, West Street. The defendant was a contractor and master of the Chew Yen shop. He had bad business transactions with the plaintiff, who was a brick and tile dealer. His first dealing with him was in February, 1880. By September, 1889, defendant owed plaintiff \$1,10.

In payment of that two promissory notes were given by the defendant, the first of which was for \$800, dated 4th September, 1889, and the second \$40, dated 6th September, 1890. The notes were given because plaintiff asked for payment. He said he could not give him any money but he made out the promissory notes. The notes were written by the plaintiff and the defendant signed and chopped them in the presence of the plaintiff and a fakir, named Li Yik. On the 28th October, the defendant paid \$640. The defendant sent for the promissory notes on that date and made an endorsement of the payment on the notes, which were sent back to the plaintiff. Plaintiff gave the defendant credit for that sum. The plaintiff had done repairs for the defendant and there was at present a balance due of \$608.66.

CROSS-EXAMINED.—The money was due only on the notes. There was also a small amount for goods. The promissory notes were written in plaintiff's shop. The business had been closed since the end of last Chinese year. The case was adjourned.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held this afternoon. There were present:—His Excellency the Governor, Sir G. William des Vœux, K.C.M.G. (President); Mr. W. M. Dean, C.M.G. (Acting Colonial Secretary); Mr. N. G. Mitchell-Innes (Colonial Treasurer); Mr. J. Stewart-Lockhart (Registrar-General); Mr. S. Brown (Surveyor-General); Messrs. P. Ryrie, C. P. Chater, T. H. Whitehead, Ho Kai, and J. J. Keswick, (unofficial members), and Mr. A. M. Thomson, Clerk of Councils.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

THE MILITARY (EXTRA) CONTRIBUTION.

The Acting Colonial Secretary moved "that the vote for military contribution be considered."

His Excellency said, before honourable members expressed their views on this vote he thought it best that he should explain more clearly the observations which he made on the last occasion, which might have been somewhat misunderstood—or not clearly understood. It appeared to him that the opposition had chiefly arisen owing to the unfortunate mistake of the Imperial Government in making the increase to the contribution provisional—dependent, more or less, on the augmentation to the strength of the Garrison. The question of whether the additional vote was right and just depended on circumstances, and on the response to two questions: First, having regard to the relative interests of the "mother country" and the Colony, is the proportion of the whole which we are now asked to pay greater than it ought to be in reference to the imperial advantages which we reap by the connection that exists between the two? Second, if not unduly great, is the amount asked for greater than we are able to bear without serious injury to our own prosperity? He did not think it would require much consideration by honourable members of the Council to give an answer to the first question. As far as he knew the promise of the Imperial authorities to increase the Forces here was aside from the real question at issue; nevertheless, in as much as this incidental expense was for our own benefit he could not think the amount the Colony was called upon to bear was an unduly large one, when it was borne in mind that it was only about one-fourth of the total cost of the Military forces in the Island—even after making large allowances for the large spaces and buildings occupied and apart from the cost of the upkeep of the fleet, for which the colony paid nothing. He questioned whether anyone, looking at it from that point of view, would declare the demand an unfair one. Then as to the colony's capacity to pay the contribution; that was a question surrounded with more doubt. After giving the subject very full consideration he had no doubt whatever that the colony could pay it without serious injury, but he could only say that for the present moment, in the course of a few years it might be very difficult to pay it, and the question would become a very important one especially as it was indicated in the War Office despatch that the sum now demanded would not be sufficient later on. The gravity in the situation would be increased by that fact if the present condition of the Colony could not be guaranteed for any number of years.

As it was clear that no such guarantee could be given, the question of probable future increase was a very important one, as regards the future. This Colony was unquestionably regarded by the garrison as the justification of the demand for increasing that contribution from £20,000 to £40,000. (Mr. Whitehead then read para. 5, 6, 7, and last sentence of 8 of the first project, also report on Hongkong Bluebook for 1890.) The increased contribution was voted by this Council last year entirely on the ground stated by Lord Knutsford, viz., that the proposed increased provision was necessary to meet the increased expenditure of the Garrison.

The increased military contribution was demanded from the Colony in March 1890, and still is demanded on the ground that the opinion of the Imperial Government circumstances render it necessary to increase the garrison in Hongkong. Lord Knutsford's despatch of 20th January, 1890, intimated most unmistakably that the proposed increase of the garrison was the justification of the demand for increasing that contribution from £20,000 to £40,000. (Mr. Whitehead then read para. 5, 6, 7, and last sentence of 8 of the first project, also report on Hongkong Bluebook for 1890.) The increased contribution was voted by this Council last year entirely on the ground stated by Lord Knutsford, viz., that the proposed increased provision was necessary to meet the increased expenditure of the Garrison.

Mr. White

The Acting Colonial Secretary.—They are drawing the old rates of pay.

A HIT AT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

Mr. Whitehead gave notice of the following motion.—"That in consequence of the enhanced Military Contribution still demanded by the Imperial Government this Colony is not in a position to pay the increased salaries recently recommended by the unofficial members, and that the Secretary of State be requested by telegram to withhold his sanction."

Mr. P. Ryrie—I give notice of a protest against the vote.

THE PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS ORDINANCE.

A Bill entitled an "O-dinance to amend the Printers and Publishers Ordinance of 1886" was introduced by the Attorney-General, and passed the first reading.

THE GAMBLING ORDINANCE, 1891.

His Excellency said he had decided to proceed with the Ordinance. He was of opinion that neither this Ordinance nor any other would have the least effect in prohibiting the people from gambling, and he would decline to place upon them more severe restrictions without special instructions. There was a question of law on the Statute-book, but they were almost obsolete now, and the bill before them was as good as at present could be devised, and was in many respects like the law enforced by the Home Government. For those reasons he intended to proceed with the present Ordinance, and make what law we had better. There was one point in the bill—the question of corruption. He thought there were men in the Police who would rather give up their office than be bribed, but it was a question whether men would be able to resist the large sum that the gambler would offer. However when they knew where the corruption was, and what was likely to take place, then they would know the position they were in. At the next meeting they would get on with the Ordinance and he proposed to deal with it then. In the meantime giving the members an opportunity to read through it. The question of the responsibilities of owners was also one for consideration, and he thought a house owner should not be proceeded against until he had had due notice that his tenants were gamblers.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council adjourned till Wednesday next. After the deliberations of the Council there was a meeting of the Finance Committee of which the report is held over until to-morrow.

ANNUAL SPORTS OF THE 3rd BATTALION A. & S. HIGHLANDERS.

Committee:—Major O. C. Hannay, Captain S. L. Robinson, Captain D. Henderson, Lieutenant H. B. Kirk, Sub-Committee:—Sergt-Major R. C. Williamson, Color-Sergt. T. Boyd, Color-Sergt. J. Brown, Lance-Sergt. H. Clayton, Corp. P. McLachlan, and Lance-Corp. J. Ingles.

The preliminary heats in connection with these sports were run on Tuesday on the Race-course at Happy Valley, but owing to the unfavourable weather the ground was in bad condition, and the times for the different events were not good. Yesterday afternoon the weather was more favourable and a large number of spectators, including a number of ladies, watched the proceedings with interest, the events being well contested throughout. The band and pipers of the Regiment played during the afternoon. The following are the bare results:—

FIRST DAY, TUESDAY, 17TH MARCH.

FOOT-BALL PLACE KICK; three tries; three prizes, \$7.50 and 3.

Pie. Keer, 50 vds. 1

Lie. Corp. Graham, 47 vds. 25 in. 2

Pie. Wilkie, 46 vds. 24 in. 3

LONG JUMP; three tries; two prizes, \$5 and 3.

Lie. Corp. Inglis, 17 ft. 7 in. 1

Pie. Sharp, 17 ft. 2

BOSSES' RACE, under 17—handicap; three prizes, \$3, 2, and 1.

Guston 1

Hallett 2

Robinson 3

HIGH JUMP; three tries; two prizes, \$5, and 3.

Pie. Sharp 1

Pie. Anderson 2

FOOTBALL, DROP KICK; three tries; three prizes, \$7.50 and 3.

Pie. McGinlay, 42 yards. 1

Cope. Cleare, 41 vds. 10 in. 2

Pie. Fiddes, 39 vds. 28 in. 3

HALF-MILE RACE; three prizes, \$7.50 and 3.

Bindman Watson 1

Pie. Gorman 2

Pie. Connolly 2

MARCHES, PIPERS; two prizes, \$10 and 5.

Pie. McKay 1

Pie. Hogg 2

THROWING THE CRICKET BALL; three tries, not to follow; two prizes, \$5 and 3.

Lie. Corp. Thompson, 91 vds. 2 ft. 1

Pie. McMillan 2

Sergt. P. Clayton 3

BAND RACE; three prizes, \$5, 3 and 1.

Bindman Watson 1

Pie. R. Smith 2

Pie. Freeman 3

HOP, STEP AND JUMP; two tries; three prizes, \$5, 3 and 2.

Pie. McMillan, 39 ft. 7 in. 1

Pie. Bell, 39 ft. 1 in. 2

Lie. Corp. Inglis, 38 ft. 33 in. 3

PUTTING THE SHOT; three tries; two prizes, \$5 and 1.

Lie. Corp. Nicholl, 3ft. 7in. 1

Sergt. Dyce, 33 ft. 1 in. 2

VETERAN'S RACE, handicap; over twelve years service; three prizes.

C. Sgt. Brown 1

Bindman Bunc 2

Sergt. Edwards 3

MILE RACE; three prizes, \$10, 5 and 3.

Pie. Gorman 1

Pie. Connolly 2

Pie. Coulter 3

FINAL COMPANY TUO-OF-WAR; best of three puls; two prizes, \$20 and 10.

Under Sergt. McCourt, E. Co., 1

Pie. Hanlan, A. Co., 2

SECOND DAY, WEDNESDAY, 18TH MARCH.

FINAL HIGH JUMP.

Pie. Sharp, 4ft. 6in. 1

Pie. Anderson 2

100 YARD'S RACE; three prizes, \$10, 5 and 3.

Pie. Steele 1

Pie. Murdoch 2

Pie. Reid 3

THROWING THE HAMMER; three tries, not to follow; two prizes, \$5 and 3.

Sgt. Dyce, 8ft. 7in. 1

Pie. Steele, 7ft. 7in. 2

SERGEANTS' RACE; 220 yards; three prizes, \$7.50 and 3.

C. Sgt. Brown 1

Sergt. Lochhead 2

Sergt. Kennedy 3

There were only four entrances, the first gained winning by about five yards.

TOSSED THE CANE; three tries; two prizes, \$10 and 5.

Sergt. Dyce 1

Lie. Corp. Nicholl 2

There were six entrants, but the first-named was the only competitor, who succeeded, in breaking the half circle.

QUARTER MILE RACE; three prizes, \$7, 5 and 3.

Pie. Reid 1

Pie. Murdoch 2

Bindman Watson 3

There were eight entries for this race which was well contested, Pie. Reid winningly a yard.

STRATHPEY AND REEL; PIPERS; two prizes, \$10 and \$5.

Piper Robertson (D. Co.) 1

Piper Ferguson (B. Co.) 2

HURDLE RACE, 10 FLIGHTS; three prizes, \$5, 3 and 2.

Pie. Bell 1

Pie. Anderson 2

Pie. Fiddes 3

There were eight starters. The first and second kept together the whole way, and Bell only won by a few yards in the race home.

CORPORALS' RACE; 210 yards; three prizes, \$7, 5 and 3.

Corp. Clayton 1

Corp. Walker 2

Corp. Laufe 3

Nine started but only the first three finished, the rest falling out after half the distance had been accomplished. Clayton won by a few feet.

HALF MILE RACE; Open to Service, Volunteers, Navy and Police; three prizes, \$10, 5 and 3.

Gunda Singh 1

Goodall, H. M. S. Firebrand 2

Goodall Sloig 3

Won easily.

SACK RACE, two prizes, \$5 and 3.

Pie. Kelly 1

Pie. Fiddes 2

Pie. Deacon 3

Twelve starters; Kelly won easily.

HIGHLAND FLING; two prizes, \$10 and 5.

Pie. Hanlan 1

Corp. Sanderson 2

COMPANY REELS; 4 men per company, two prizes, \$10 and 5.

E. Company 1

Two companies were disqualified in this event.

SWORD DANCE; two prizes, \$5 and 3.

Corp. Sanderson 1

Pie. Robb 2

MILE RACE; open to Service, Volunteers, Navy and Police.

Gunda Singh 1

Goodall Singh 2

Goodall Sloig 3

Six starters; Gunda Singh led all the way and won easily.

TUG-OF-WAR; op'n. First heat.

Mixed Naval team. 1

A crew of H. M. S. *Lander* pulled a mixed team from the *Impresario*, *Severn*, and *Victor Emmanuel*. The mixed team won easily.

SECOND HEAT—Highlanders v. Gun Lascars. Highland team. 1

The Sikhs stood no chance and the Highlanders won.

FINAL HEAT—Mixed Naval team; v. Highlanders. 1

Mixed Naval team. 1

The Navy and Highlanders pulled very evenly, but the former had the advantage in strength and eventually pulled the latter over the tape.

CONSOLIDATION RACE; two prizes, \$7 and 5.

Pie. Thornton 1

Pie. Leyburn 2

CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HONGKONG HOTEL.

To the Editors of the "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."

DEAR SIR,—As a resident in the Hongkong Hotel I consider Mr. Gaskell has earned the gratitude of the public generally, by drawing attention to the want of management of that establishment, and I certainly think that the Directors, through their Secretary, have not improved their position by the communication which appeared in your last night's issue. That the very deepest dissatisfaction prevails among the residents—not guests—is evident, and if this is not known to the Directors it ought to be, unless they are either deaf or blind. Mr. Lyall says that, "so far as Mr. Tucker is concerned, there is no foundation, in fact, for the charge made by Mr. Gaskell," well, if so, this only confirms the general belief that the concern is run by the worthy Chairman and Chinese compradore, and that Mr. Tucker is only a figure-head and butt. I am informing the Secretary that it has been written to him, and am quite prepared to go into details with the Directors if they wish it.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

DISTRESSED.

Hongkong, 19th March, 1891.

To the Editors of the "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."

SIR,—Although I am neither a shareholder in the Hongkong Hotel Company nor a permanent resident of Hongkong, still as one who has lived in the hotel, on and off, for many years past, and as one who still patronizes the establishment, I would deem it a favor if you could find space for this letter, as I consider the strictures passed upon the management of the hotel at the late meeting, to have been amply justified and to be founded on solid fact. I leave the conduct of the financial affairs of the company to those who are interested in them. I refer simply and solely to the actual management, or perhaps it would be more correct to say mismanagement—

THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH, THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1891.

To-day's Advertisements.

THEATRE ROYAL,
CITY HALL.

Under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency the Governor Sir GEORGE WILLIAM DES VŒUX, K.C.M.G.

TO-MORROW, the 20th March.

MADAME PATEY,
AND HER CONCERT PARTY,
IN A GRAND CONCERT
OF CLASSICAL AND POPULAR MUSIC.

MADAME PATEY WILL SING:—
1.—"Quando a ti Lien" (Faust), Gounod.
2.—"Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep," Knight.
3.—"The Minstrel Boy" Moore.

POPULAR PRICES.
Dress Circle and Stalls \$2.00.
Back Seats 1.00.
Soldiers and Sailors in uniform Half-Price to the Back Seats.

Plan at Messrs. KELLY & WALSH, LTD.,
W. H. POOLE,
Manager,
Hongkong, 19th March, 1891. [431]

DOUGLAS STEAM-SHIP COMPANY,
LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND TAMSUI.
THE Company's Steamship

"HAILOONG,"
Captains Bathurst, will be despatched for the above Ports on SUNDAY, the 22nd instant, at Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & CO., General Managers, Hongkong, 19th March, 1891. [452]

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD.

NOTICE.
STEAM TO YOKOHAMA, KOBE AND NAGASAKI.
(Passing through the INLAND SEA.)

THE Company's Steamship

"GENERAL WERDER," Captain M. Eichel, will leave for the above Ports TO-MORROW, the 20th inst., at 3 P.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to MELCHERS & CO., Agents, Hongkong, 19th March, 1891. [44]

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD.

NOTICE.
STEAM TO SHANGHAI.
THE Company's Steamship

"SACHSEN," Captain K. von Goetsch, will leave for the above place TO-MORROW, the 20th inst., at 3 P.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to MELCHERS & CO., Agents, Hongkong, 19th March, 1891. [44]

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

STEAMSHIP "SACHSEN," FROM BREMEN AND PORTS OF CALL.

THE above named steamer having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods, with the exception of Opium, Treasures and Valuables, are being landed and stored at their risk in the Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, Kowloon, whence delivery may be obtained.

Optional Cargo will go on to Shanghai unless notice to the contrary be given before 4 p.m., this afternoon, the 19th inst.

No claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining after the 20th instant, will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed, and damaged goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on Thursday, the 26th inst., at 4 P.M.

All Claims must reach us before the 27th instant, or they will not be recognised.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by MELCHERS & CO., Agents, Hongkong, 19th March, 1891. [44]

FOR SALE.

DOG CART AND PONY, and set of English harness never used. The Pony is a perfect Lady's Hack.

Apply to CAPTAIN GARDINER, Hongkong, 19th March, 1891. [450]

NOTICE.

WE have this day OPENED a BRANCH of our FIRM at HANKOW, CARLOWITZ & CO., Hongkong, 19th March, 1891. [451]

TO BE LET.

A FIVE-ROOMED HOUSE, No. 3, "Wild Dell Buildings," Wan Chai Road (opposite Bakery).

No. 1 (corner House facing East) and No. 6 (corner House facing West) Richmond Terrace; the former with Conservatory, and Tennis Lawn. Each House contains Six Good Rooms, and is pleasantly situated.

No. 4, RICHMOND TERRACE; Four large Rooms.

Apply to HENRY HUMPHREYS.

TO BE LET OR SOLD, On favourable terms, with immediate Possession.

EIGHT HOUSES at "Mountain View," Peak District, near Punnett's Gap. If sold, part of the Purchase money can remain on Mortgage.

Apply to JOHN A. JUDD, 53 & 54, Queen's Road Central, Hongkong, 19th March, 1891. [452]

HONGKONG SCHOOLS' ATHLETIC SPORTS.

By kind permission of the Jockey Club, the SPORTS connected with the above will be held on the Race Course, on SATURDAY, the 1st instant, commencing at 3 P.M.

LADY DES VŒUX has kindly consented to Distribute the Prizes.

Selections of Music will be given at Intervals by the Band of the A. & S. Highlanders.

EDW. JNO. BOARDS, Hon. Secretary, Hongkong, 19th March, 1891. [449]

Amusements.

THEATRE ROYAL,
CITY HALL, HONGKONG.

Mrs. CARSON Lessee and Manager.

GRAND DRAMATIC SEASON COMMENCING SATURDAY NEXT, the 21st March, 1891.

Under the Distinguished Patronage of H.E. the Governor, Sir GEO. WILLIAM DES VŒUX, K.C.M.G. and LADY DES VŒUX

Mr. GEO. C. MILN supported by

MISS LOUISE JORDAN & ORIGINAL COMPANY IN HAMLET.

PROGRAMME FOR THE SEASON, Saturday and Tuesday, 21st and 24th March.

HAMLET; Thursday, 26th, MERCHANT OF VENICE; Saturday, 28th, RICHARD III; Wednesday and Thursday, 1st and 2nd April, ROMEO AND JULIET; Saturday and Monday, 4th and 6th, ROY ROY; Wednesday, 8th, OTHELLO; Thursday, 9th, LADY OF LYONS; Saturday, 11th April, Farewell Performance, MACBETH.

Popular Prices:—\$2 and \$1. Soldiers and Sailors Half-prices to Pts.

Seats now being booked for each Performance at Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.

Doors open 8.30. Performance to commence at 9 p.m.

Hongkong, 17th March, 1891. [457]

THEATRE ROYAL,
CITY HALL.

THE HONGKONG AMATEUR DRAMATIC CLUB.

The above Club will give A PERFORMANCE ON MONDAY, the 30th March, AND

TUESDAY, the 1st March, When will be produced an Original Comedy by James Albany, entitled:—

"TWO ROSES."

By kind permission of Lieut.-Colonel CHATER, and the Officers, the Band of the 1st Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders will perform during the Evening.

Cickets can be obtained from Messrs. LANE, CRAWFORD & CO. on and after Monday, March 23rd, at 11 a.m. Price, \$2 and \$1.

Doors open 8.30. Performance to commence at 9 o'clock.

Hongkong, 17th March, 1891. [458]

Insurances.

THE STANDARD SCOTTISH LIFE OFFICE OF 64 YEARS STANDING, AND ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST AND MOST PROGRESSIVE OF THE PREVENT INSTITUTIONS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE Standard has a long record of good services to refer to; its Funds, annually increasing, amount to \$7,000,000. The Premiums are moderate; and all modern features consistent with safety have been adopted.

ADAMSON, BELL & CO., Agents, Hongkong, 19th March, 1891. [459]

GENERAL LIFE AND FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY IN LONDON.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE and LIFE at Current RATES.

REUTER, BROCKELMANN & CO., Hongkong, 1st July, 1891. [460]

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES.

RUSSELL & CO., Agents, Hongkong, 1st November, 1890. [461]

NOTICE.

THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED.....\$1,000,000.

The above Company is prepared to accept MARINE RISKS at CURRENT RATES on Goods &c. Policies granted to all Parts of the world payable at any of its Agencies.

WOO LIN YUEN, Secretary, HEAD OFFICE, No. 2, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST, Hongkong, 1st February, 1892. [462]

GENERAL NOTICE.

THE ON TAI INSURANCE COMPANY, (LIMITED.)

CAPITAL, TAELS 600,000. EQUAL to.....\$433,333.33.

RESERVE FUND.....\$315,000.00.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

LEE SING, Esq. LG YEEU MOON, Esq.

MANAGER.—HO AMEL.

HONGKONG, 19th March, 1891. [463]

NOTICE.

MARINE RISKS on GOODS, &c., taken at CURRENT RATES in all parts of the world.

HEAD OFFICE, 3 & 4, PRAYA WEST, Hongkong, 17th December, 1890. [464]

NOTICE.

JEYE'S SANITARY COMPOUNDS COMPANY, LIMITED.

JEYE'S WOOD PRESERVER OR ANTISEPTIC PAINT.

The Undersigned have this day been appointed SOLE AGENTS for the sale of these PERFECT DISINFECTANTS, and are prepared to supply quantities to suit purchasers, at Wholesale Prices. Extra Special Terms for Shipping and Large Orders.

SIR ROBERT RAWLINSON, C.H., Child Sanitary Engineer, Local Government Board, London, says:

"This is the best Disinfectant in use."

W. G. HUMPHREYS & CO., Hon. Agents.

HONGKONG, 19th March, 1891. [465]

Masonic.

CATHAY CHAPTER,
No. 1, 165.

A REGULAR CONVOCATION of the above Chapter, will be held in FREEMASON'S HALL, Zetland Street, TO-MORROW, the 20th inst., at 8.30 for P.M. precisely. Hongkong, 16th March, 1891. [466]

To be Let.

TO LET.

BLUE BUNGALOW, PEAK ROAD.

Apply to THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.

Hongkong, 17th March, 1891. [467]

TO BE LET.

N. 10, SEYMOUR TERRACE

Apply to HERCULES J. SCOTT.

Hongkong, 3rd February, 1891. [468]

KOWLOON.

TO LET.

KNUTSFORD TERRACE,—KIMBERLEY ROAD.

With Immediate Possession.

THE KOWLOON LAND AND BUILDING CO.'S ESTATE.

Healthily situated 5 ROOMED-HOUSES with Bath-rooms complete; splendid view. Moderate Rent.

Apply to THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.

Hongkong, 11th March, 1891. [469]

TO LET.

NOS. 25 & 27, ELGIN STREET, behind the old Union Church.

Apply to ACHEE & CO.

Hongkong, 26th February, 1891. [470]

TO LET.

Nos. 17, PRAYA CENTRAL

OFFICES—above Messrs. Douglas, Lapraik & Co.'s Premises.

Apply to THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.

Hongkong, 16th December, 1890. [471]

TO LET.

NOS. 9 & 11, SEYMOUR TERRACE.

ROOMS in College Chambers

No. 4, OLD BAILEY STREET.

OFFICES and CHAMBERS in Connaught House, Queen's Road Central.